

## **CHANGING LIVES AND IMPROVING INDEPENDENCE**

Getting in touch with CABA had a significant impact on our family. We have five children; our youngest, Poppy, was born extremely prematurely in 2005 and has chronic lung disease, quadriplegic cerebral palsy, hearing issues and Global Developmental Delay.

Poppy is profoundly disabled, and coupled with this, her lung disease makes her extremely vulnerable - she has frequent admissions into hospital. Our middle child, Charlie, has Asperger's syndrome, and other related health issues. He suffers from severe anxiety, and requires a large amount of support and supervision, to manage his phobias and obsessions.

We'd been battling for over two years to get an extension built, so Poppy could have her own accessible bedroom, and bathroom, to facilitate her independence. The extension would also provide a much needed safe place for Charlie.

We were having problems securing funding for the extension, and had all but given up on the idea, when CABA stepped in. Our Case Officer and Carer Support Worker CABA were able to understand the issues and identify solutions and put them in place effectively. My wife and I both truly felt supported for the first time, and as a direct result, Poppy's extension is now being constructed.

Due to the high care needs of our children, and the amount of equipment needed, we have not been able to have a holiday together as a family for over four years. Thanks to CABA, we have a holiday planned for the summer-with carers coming too, so that we are able to have a break ourselves.



Poppy and Charlie have on average 10-12 appointments every week to attend, which has significantly affected my ability to work full time. CABA has been hugely supportive. The support is not just financial; it covers emotional and practical support that is often lacking from the public sector. We cannot thank the people at CABA enough who support us.

**Mr J FCA**