

Personalisation In Practice by Suzie Franklin with Helen Sanderson.

As the mother of two sons with autism, I feel gratitude to Suzie Franklin for setting out so clearly the path she and her daughter Jennie have taken. Like most young adults, autistic or otherwise, Jennie needs her own personal space. She wants to maintain close ties with her family, and their emotional support is still hugely important, but at the same time she thrives in a living arrangement which enables her to be as independent as possible.

At best, the personal budgets system gives choice and control to the service user. This book shows how Jennie's team, headed by Suzie, have achieved an excellent outcome through "Jennie-centred" planning. This, surely, is the way forward for adults with special needs. People like Jennie, and my sons George and Sam, cannot be pushed unsupported into the community. But given the right kind of living environment, with all their priorities and idiosyncracies taken into consideration, they can lead rich, fulfilling, interactive lives.

Personalisation In Practice explains the process step by step, while at the same time painting a vivid picture of Jennie's vibrant, life-enhancing personality. This is an immensely useful book for parents and professionals. It is a beacon of hope for the future.

Charlotte Moore, author of George And Sam- Autism in the Family.