

LECKEY



# MyWay

Case Study – Sam

Supporting Children

# MyWay Case Story

Sam is 12 years old and has generalised dystonia [equivalent to GMFCS level V].

- The MyWay harness supports Sam comfortably in an upright position.
- The hoisting feature on the MyWay harness means he can be comfortably transferred from the changing bench into the MyWay frame and directly back into his wheelchair or standing frame.
- The secure positioning of the MyWay provides core stability necessary for head and limb control.
- The ankle guides direct Sam's lower limb movement to step clearly without excessive foot lift.
- The uni-directional castor settings enable Sam to walk along corridors, and are easily released for freedom of steering in the school sports hall.
- Adult handles enable Sam's carers to guide him around corners or provide assistance when he is tired.
- The ease of manoeuvrability means that Sam can initiate stepping and step freely.



Sam is a 12 years old happy sociable young man. He has severe dystonia, presenting as equivalent to GMFCS level V, being limited in his ability to maintain antigravity head and trunk postures and control arm and leg movements. He has a scoliosis concave to his right and wears a spinal jacket to provide optimum correction and trunk support. He also has Piedro boots for use when he is using his standing frame or supportive walking device. Sam has good understanding and says 'Aye' when he agrees to something being offered. He had a Deep Brain Stimulation [DBS] unit implanted in 2017.

His mother reported that although he continues to display dystonic movements, there is a possibility that without the DBS, his dystonic movements would be even stronger. At rest or when concentrating, Sam is able to stay still. However, on effort or excitement he displays increased dystonic movements of his limbs and trunk. Sam is regularly positioned in a standing frame and has been training to use a powered wheelchair using a joystick in his right hand. Although progress has been limited he continues to practice in school.

## First experience of using the MyWay

When classroom staff first saw Sam in his MyWay they commented:

- 'His posture is better'
- 'His legs aren't bent'
- 'He is less restricted'
- 'He is more in control'
- 'He can play football now because the front is free'
- 'He looks proud of himself'
- 'This would be great for PE'
- 'He is able to achieve close up eye contact with his classmates'

He was able to approach a football and make contact with his foot. He was very pleased with himself! He is an avid Northern Ireland and Manchester United supporter.

Sam spent more time in the Leckey walker than in other walkers he has used.

## Six week follow up

### At Home

- Sam used his MyWay daily at home during school holiday. His mother was delighted. He was reluctant to come out of the MyWay because he was enjoying using it so much. His mother suggested that he enjoys having control of movement in the MyWay, something he does not have using powered mobility.
- Sam has used the MyWay outdoors regularly around the farmyard and lane.
- His mother commented that it was easy to get Sam back into his wheelchair afterwards using the hoisting system.
- His mother also reported that Sam gained a good exercise effect using the MyWay and was often very tired after use.

### At School

- Sam uses his MyWay regularly in school.
- He steps in his MyWay as part of a life skills challenge recycling programme. This involves:
  - Travelling in two different directions with an object
  - Using hands to send an object to partner/target with some accuracy
  - Take turns in at least 2 different games with peers
  - Receive an object from partner
- Sam also uses his MyWay for PE and walks along the school corridors. His school friends are very encouraging and pleased to see Sam stepping in his MyWay.



Sheila McNeill MCSP  
Physiotherapist



Leckey  
19c Ballinderry Road  
Lisburn BT28 2SA  
Northern Ireland

[+44] 28 9260 0750  
hello@leckey.com

leckey.com

