



Parley

Parents And Relatives
Listening and Empathising
with You

Vikki's Story

The story as I gather was that my brother suffered from a stroke in the womb. The arguing story is that due to forceps (as he came out black and blue from them) they damaged a nerve affecting all his left side muscle tone.

After weeks in an incubator and getting to the age of 2 without the ability to walk, my mother fought and fought with the doctors to say that something was not right. My brother was not crawling or walking. Eventually after much heartache he was found to have Cerebral Palsy on the left hand side.

My parents had no support, there were no support groups that they could find, the doctors could not give her much information and of course back then we did not have the world wide web. They had nothing just their fears.

In his first 16 years my brother had to undergo 20 operations to include releasing his Achilles tendon resulting in plaster of both legs on numerous occasions for many years.

He then had to go through leg lengthening having an orthofix screwed into his thigh bone with a spanner to turn 3 x a day to lengthen this area. This operation was done incorrectly on 3 occasions resulting in major scarring, pain and eventually an emergency operation to put a metal rod in his thigh bone as it had bowed and was about to snap.

He now refuses to undergo any more surgery as you can imagine and gave up on his physiotherapy which was terrible for me and my little brother. Our lives worked around the hospital all the time and I grew up in the children's ward of Worthing hospital.

I do like to say now that the doctors said that he would never walk and would be wheelchair bound; he is now 31 and walks albeit with a limp, drives a manual car; he passed his test at 19 and still drives a manual car, and has gone on to achieve a degree in music, be a renowned musical director in Buckinghamshire and Berkshire and is a manager of a huge recruitment company.

That was achieved through determination, commitment and not letting his disability stop him from achieving his goals and dreams.