

# **Blow a Hole....**

**This staged reading is a composite of many stories that young people have told us of their lives, hopes and experiences.**

**Thank you to all those who shared their stories and to those who read them**

**This is the first reading but we thought you wouldn't want to miss it!**

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**ALEX**

***Tell me story about doing well and feeling good***

**JAZMINE**

I love shopping, fashion, drawing, photography

**LAKI**

I try and make craft everyday- I sit on my bed. If I could I would do it non stop all day everyday. I like to spend as many hours as I can. I look forward to it- I did it all day yesterday and at the end I was still enjoying it. I lose all sense of time. All my worries go away, I just relax. At the end of the time you sit and look at the bits you've made, its really cool and I love it.

**ROSIE**

Dying my hair, singing, acting, sunbathing, photography, fashion, styling and partying.

**ALEX**

It's a difficult question to answer, a bit depressing.

**MATT**

I'm good at my sports and passionate about football. Quite good with people, I'm an interactor

**ALEX**

I like horror movies. I like the adrenaline, getting scared!

**LAKI**

We have a football team in Birmingham- we get to play regional- Coventry all the west midlands- you can get through to the first team and then travel nationally- hopefully it could lead to big things.

**JAZMINE**

***Tell me a story about achievements***

**LAKI**

When I was younger I used to go to a group, full of able-bodied people. I couldn't get involved in games, now they let me take the lead. That has helped my confidence

**ALEX**

I'm studying media production full time, photography, film making. I take pictures; take films, the odd essay. I'm not big on essays.

**JAZMINE**

Staying in a relationship, for nearly 2 years- we've got engaged!

**MATT**

I love to do music production, and its one of my achievements

**LAKI**

For my final degree show I linked my experience of my disability side, the physical and mental side, capturing all the forms going on in my mind. I used symbols and things.

**ROSIE**

The day I found out I could drive an adapted car. It felt Amazing, Excited, and Free. It gave me Independence.

**ALEX**

I definitely learned a lot, *not* at school though. I did loads of evening classes- that's were I got my knowledge. 3d modelling, digital photography website design, multi media. drama classes.

**JAZMINE*****Tell me a story about challenges*****ROSIE**

I'd say when I was in hospital for 3 months- intensive care- when I'd just turned 17, doing my a 'levels- it wasn't just the work, I missed out on all my mates and stuff for 3 months- because I was in intensive care so no one came to visit me, - it was a big challenge, big challenge.

**ALEX**

I face the same challenge every 3 months. I had a tube in my stomach and this has to be changed under a General Aesthetic each time. It never gets easier. Before I used to have a GA I would be awake and they would change it, this was the most traumatic time of my life, I hated it, I couldn't think of anything worse, I was in a bad place at the time of my life. Eventually the Doctors agreed to put me to sleep each time. I'm still not over it; it still has a huge impact on my life unfortunately.

**LAKI**

It was when I had the trachy fitted and being on the ventilator at night- it was a good 6 or 7 months of hard work really. That was the most challenging.

**JAZMINE**

Everyday life, the streets. Going out for a disabled person is hard. Access to shops. Blow a hole in the door and make a path to get it!

**ALEX**

I can't go out without someone who can't do medical suction, Coz before, my mates used to ring up when I was 15- 16 and go out for a drink, or to the park and just go out- but now obviously I cant do that- I used to go out to London on my own, without someone who could do suction- I'd never do that now these days- I know how it feels not being able to breath properly- so that was quite a challenging thing....

**ROSIE**

When I was in hospital for 2 months. I had 3 operations in a row, yeah. I was unconscious for 6 weeks. I woke up and I was told I was unconscious for that long. It felt like I missed.... 6 weeks of my life just gone.

**ALEX**

I had an open wound, ive still got a scar. I was stuck there in hospital while it was healing, a month. After that I was getting so upset and distressed from being there. And then I was stuck at home. I did nothing for a year, from not moving for 6 weeks everything seized up, so I couldn't do anything with my hands. I felt ill all the time. After a year my hands got better.

**MATT**

There are times when you get very depressed and disheartened, but it's your life. If you sit down and take it, your not going to have a very good quality of life.

**LAKI**

***Tell me a story about hopes and dreams***

**JAZMINE**

God gives you hope, some people don't believe, I like to be optimistic, that's the way forward. If you're not you'd be in your own little world and there is a lot out there.

**ALEX**

Getting a good job - my partner can get money too, get a good job for our children- we'll be on our feet- and have that life. We've suffered a lot in our life- my hope is to move out, have some money, not too much and just relax and enjoy life

**LAKI**

I would love to work with an artist that is well known in the UK  
But I don't know whether it'll happen- I want to meet Westwood to show that this skill is coming from a disabled person, coz I don't know about anyone in the UK who has broken into the Music industry- id like to talk to Westwood

**MATT**

*I am looking forward to..... LONDON!! Also hopefully meeting Jessie J.*

**ALEX**

I'm going to have a summer wedding, religious wedding and then we'll save up for the big one.

**LAKI**

I'd like to be a full time artist, video/ photography. Ideally I'd be self-employed, my clients would be anyone who wants me really! I want to be creative, get some art displayed.

**ROSIE**

I want to move out into my own home, with care, and live with my fiancé.

**LAKI*****Tell me a story about transition*****ALEX**

Between child to adult hood- it's been quite difficult- I'm 24 now and at 18 it was difficult to get all the care aspects transferred. We never knew we could have district nurses, and it wasn't offered to us, as we never knew. My family were saying "its quite difficult for us as we have no support from any where"- and that's when the transition all started- we were given a care team. District nurses- like we never had a hoist or anything. So that was really difficult- we never knew where to turn to.

**MATT**

It feels frustrating that I have to always repeat myself to people. Especially with my tube issue because people don't understand how hard it is.

**LAKI**

Whereas before I could ring my social worker at any time, now I have to hold everything back. I'm hoping to move out but I've been on the list for 2 years. I was on silver banding, but now I'm on bronze. Me and my mum don't get on at all, I don't want to be here, she doesn't want me to be here, and I've tried, getting e mails and copies from social workers to say how bad it is, but I'm still not getting anywhere.

**ALEX**

When I moved from the service I thought it would be easier- the children's team told me it would be different, "relax your going to be fine". I can't go back and ask why this didn't happen.

**ROSIE**

Mine was really bad- I was getting abuse from my family and then the duty social worker opened all my information and told my parents- and I told him not to- so my confidentiality was broken- it was a really bad time, no body was listening and there was no support from social services in transition. I didn't know what to do; I felt alone- that was the worst experience ever

**JAZMINE**

Firstly, transition is meant to start when you are 16. It never does. They started mine when I was 18. It's taken nearly 2 ½ years to finally get the care package I have now signed off. A helper was telling me a different thing to the support worker. I had to throw a strop, as I was getting so anxious it was very, very stressful.

**ALEX**

Mainly it's the hospital – I was in children's hospital until I was 18, luckily, I won the battle to stay there! When I moved to adult's services nobody knew anything about me. My partner had to lift me into the hospital bed when I was going to have an operation, and sat in my wheelchair- they thought that she was the one who had the problem. When I was in children's service I had one social worker who knew everything about me.

**MATT**

My mum did all the fighting then she taught me.

**JAZMINE**

It's horrendous that you have to fight for the dignity to care for yourself. There was a point when social services were leaving me for 5 hours in a soiled pad because they wouldn't pay for the care. When I first moved here to my flat, there wasn't enough care arranged, for about 2 weeks I was left for hours without a drink. It's all about penny pinching.

**MATT**

***Tell me a story about a fun time***

**JAZMINE**

Sounds pretty bad- but probably in the pub- I go to a great bar with me and me mate Bob- we have a great laugh. We have the occasional person that takes the piss out of you but the thing is my mates will kick out their chins- I just tell em don't.

**ALEX**

For my 18th birthday my carer/second mother bought me You Me At Six tickets, I managed to email their manager and I got to meet them as well as going to their gig. They're my favourite band, and make everything seem easy. When I listen to their music. I can't even put into words the emotions that I was feeling when I met the band, it felt like a dream, all I kept thinking is ' Oh my God, they're here right now, talking to me'. It made me feel alive. It was with my best friend Mary and my girlfriend Grace.

**LAKI**

With my friends or family, I love going out with Rover on long walks.

**ALEX**

My mates used to sit on my lap when we used to go from pub to pub, I was out once- my 21<sup>st</sup>- my mate Tom jumped onto the back of my chair.

We were driving down, I braked suddenly to scare him, Tom literally went flying over the top of me and head first into a BMW and Tom legged it all the way up the road- he proper dented it!

### **ROSIE**

Just before my operation happened was the time I was happiest, in Halls. It was more sociable; I used to go down the student union every night. I was more independent then. I remember me and this guy; in the kitchen doing shots of vodka, I don't remember more!

### **LAKI**

I'm most happy Probably when I'm with people, when I'm not I get lonely- I'm happy playing PS all day and doing my music- I'm passionate about music.

### **MATT**

I went to Uni and did an art degree. I enjoy doing art and maybe it's a bit of an escape.

### **JAZMINE**

***Tell me a story about travelling.....***

### **ALEX**

This makes me still angry. I get the bus from work to town and town to home; a local bus that I catch every day, and the bus driver completely humiliated me in front of everyone who was travelling. Apparently I was sat incorrectly, I parked myself in because the bus was crowded. There was a pole and I couldn't turn round- so I said I cant. I was stressed; everyone was looking at me, as she was full on shouting at me. One woman got up and said you can't speak to her like that, and she says, "If you don't shut up then you can f...g get off too". She told me to 'get off my fucking bus' and when the cow drove off, she put her fingers up to me, and laughed and I was left there crying.

### **JAZMINE**

I went to France with Mark House and the journey was long, 8 hours to get to the South of France! We wanted to go to the toilet. They don't have toilet seats in the South of France, you have to hover. And I fell inside the toilet.

### **LAKI**

We don't really fly any more because of how difficult it is. The indignity of the whole thing, you have to be transferred, onto a small trolley that they wheel into the plane. The chairs they provide are inadequate for someone like me coz they've got no support. They had to actively Man handle me to get me into the seat. The whole thing is a nightmare. They break your chair as they put it into the hold.

**ALEX**

*Tell me about what's important or inspires you....*

**LAKI**

My family and God. They're there 24/7 with the support. Tierry is up there too!

**JAZMINE**

I have determination to get through things, my confidence and aspirations, these are my key things.

**MATT**

I have learnt to fight for my rights and not to give up on them

**ROSIE**

When it's a sunny day, warm, and I've had enough sleep, spend time with my friends. Everything excites me. Be positive in everything!

