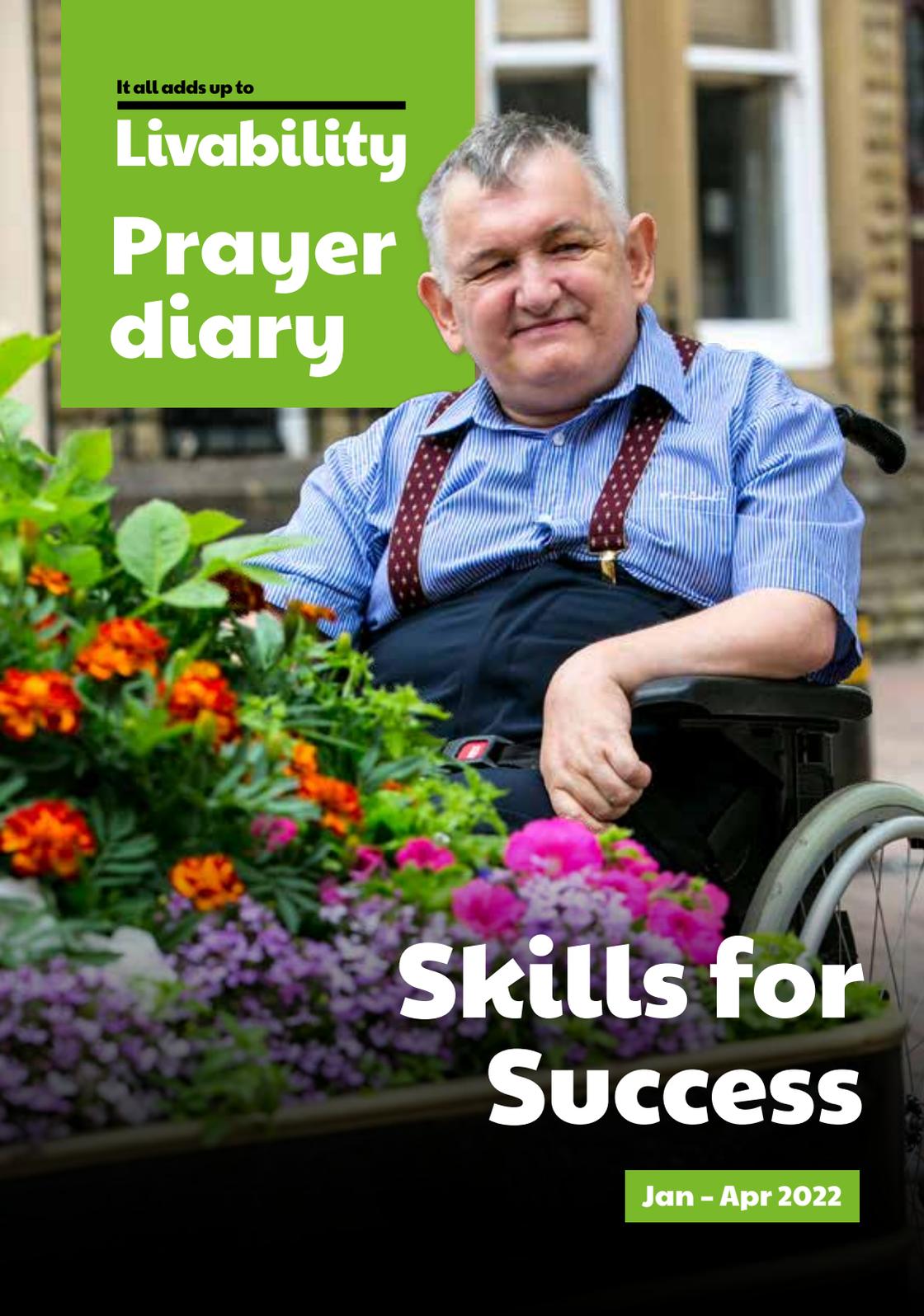


It all adds up to

Livability Prayer diary

A photograph of a middle-aged man with grey hair, wearing a blue striped shirt and dark suspenders, sitting in a wheelchair. He is positioned next to a large flower bed filled with orange, pink, and purple flowers. The background shows a building with windows.

Skills for Success

Jan - Apr 2022

We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us

Rom 12:6



Welcome to our prayer diary



Dear friend
Happy New Year! Thank you for being part of our prayer

support team as we step into 2022.

For the next few months, we'd like to focus our prayers on how we empower children, young people and adults with disabilities to keep learning and developing, gaining skills for life.

At Livability, we refuse to have low expectations of people with disabilities but instead strive to enable people to develop their potential. This hugely boosts self-confidence, independence and wellbeing.

Skills development is an everyday part of Livability services. It can be something

that seems tiny but is significant for the individual, such as one young woman who learned simply to charge her own mobile phone without help, or it might be an academic achievement.

This upskilling approach takes extra resources and extra commitment from staff but we believe it to be vital if someone is to enjoy a full and flourishing life.

Thank you again for your prayers,

Sally Chivers
CEO

P.S. We're encouraging our readers to receive the Prayer Diary online, making valuable savings for the charity. This will also give you access to our new video prayers feature. Please sign up today at livability.org.uk/prayerdiary

Pray with us

Dear Lord, thank you for a new year and the knowledge that you have promised to be with each of us – every person in the Livability community. We pray that everyone in our care will grow in the coming year, developing their potential and their spiritual life. Please give our staff the wisdom and insight they need as they work with each individual. Amen

January

Let's pray

Father, we lift to you the children and young people who are part of a Livability service. Thank you that each individual has something to give and we pray that our work will equip them to find their place in the world. Amen

 Join in our audio prayer by clicking here



Week 1

We pray for students at Livability Nash College and Victoria School, who benefit hugely from their education. We thank you that all students with profound physical and learning disabilities can make significant progress. We ask you to encourage each student as they learn. Amen

Week 2

We pray for young people we support whose goal is eventually to live independently. We ask you to bless them as they learn life skills for independence, and to open the right doors for each one so they can find a place to thrive in adult life. Amen

Week 3

We thank you for the expertise in autism that so many of our educational staff bring to our school and college. Please give them patience and insight as they form bonds with students who may find social interaction very difficult and please enable each student to make progress. Amen



Support

Livability Victoria School, Nash College and Horizons give children and young people with disabilities the chance to make the most of their lives. We often see students develop and thrive in ways they and their families didn't think possible. Your support will help us continue to provide education services.

Call Michelle on 020 7452 2099 to find out more about leaving a gift in your Will.

Get your free Will Pack at www.livability.org.uk/giftsinwills

Get ready, go! Livability Horizons

Nineteen-year-old Matt lives at Livability Horizons, where he's gaining the skills and independence needed for his next stage of life. Matt is a wheelchair user and non-verbal. He communicates with an electronic voice aid and with a book with images that he points to, in conversation.

Matt's goal is to live independently. 'Matt has done well at school and is really good with figures,' says Paula Thomas, Area Manager at Horizons. 'We've enabled him to find a financial advocate to help with his benefits and with a budget. While he's at Horizons, he wants to learn skills like cleaning, cooking and laundry, ready for supported living. He's already made a fantastic chocolate cake for his birthday!'



Week 4

We pray for all our students who will leave school or college this year, that you would provide fulfilling jobs or volunteer roles for all who are ready to find work. We ask for a change in social attitudes towards people with disabilities, that their gifts and talents may be welcomed and not ignored. Amen

Why our work is needed

People with disabilities are experiencing increased disadvantage in finding work. Nearly nine in ten disabled young people (aged 18-25 years old) say their work has been affected by the pandemic*. Equipping young people who have the potential to work with the necessary skills is given a very high priority in Livability's school and college.

* <https://www.leonardcheshire.org/get-involved/campaign-us/employment>





February

Let's pray

We thank you for each member of Livability's 1400 staff and the difference they make every day to the lives of people with disabilities. We pray that you will encourage staff when they face challenges and give them joy in their work. Amen

Week 1

We thank you for the creative ways that we can communicate with each other. We pray for all staff who are trained and train others to use alternative communication methods, such as Makaton and electronic talkers. We pray for everyone who is learning these skills at the moment, that this would broaden their world. Amen



Week 2

We lift our staff training programme to you, asking for success and fulfilment for those undergoing training and for staff who plan and deliver training. Amen



Week 3

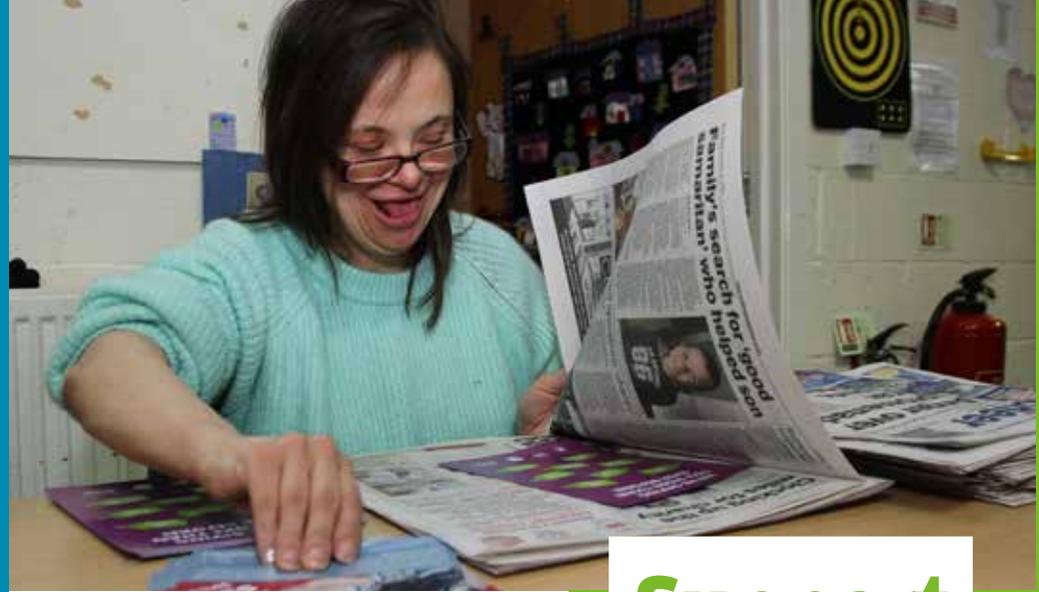
We pray for staff across our services, as they work with people we support to find out what new things they would like to try in life. We thank you for the joy that new skills and increased independence can bring, and how it represents a step forward for someone, at their personal ability level. Amen

Week 4

We pray for all new staff as they join the organisation in coming months, that they will enjoy learning their new job and working with others in their team. Thank you for the amazing, committed and skilful people in our workforce. Amen

Why our work is needed

The annual State of Care report from the Care Quality Commission found that carers and volunteers have worked tirelessly to help those who needed care and states that the negative impact of working under this sustained pressure, including anxiety, stress and burnout, cannot be underestimated. Livability has a robust wellbeing programme available to all staff, which includes free support on work and personal matters, counselling, exercise and wellbeing. Staff wellbeing is one of our top priorities.



Support

'Pure delight'
Livability Conwy day service

Hazel works at our day service in Llandudno, where learning new skills is key for clients:

'Covid has meant that we're at the centre more, working on literacy and numeracy skills and new craft skills. We are teaching some how to use a tablet, which makes learning numeracy fun.

'The difference when someone has mastered something new can't be put into words. It's a picture of pure delight which lights up their whole face. The satisfaction for their support worker is just as important. It's a feeling of achievement for all – all the hard work has paid off!'

Our staff are trained to work with each individual to enable them to grow and develop in areas that interest them and increase their independence. This takes commitment and expertise from staff and determination and sometimes courage on the part of people we support.

 **You can donate by phone, to give opportunities to the people we support to experience the 'pure delight' of learning and achieving. Please call 020 7452 2121**



March

 Join in our signed video prayer by clicking here

Let's pray

Thank you, God, for the abilities you have given each person we support. Thank you that every day, people we work with are being encouraged to try new things which will increase their independence and confidence. Amen



Week 1

We thank you for the amazing gifts of creativity you give us. Thank you for the joy that creating brings to people we support and we pray for all arts, crafts and musical activities at our services, that they will be a source of fun and fulfilment for everyone who takes part. Amen

Week 2

We pray for the people we support and staff, as together they work on developing the potential to learn. Thank you for every step made and every goal reached, which represents growing and progress for people we support. Amen

Week 3

Thank you that opportunities to take gain skills in sports and outdoor activities have returned to many of our services. We pray for ventures like accessible horse-riding, which people who use our services in Somerset enjoy, and ask that you will provide affordable opportunities like these more widely near our services. Amen

Week 4

We thank you for the hundreds of people who have been treated over the years at our Icanho rehabilitation centre for acquired brain injury. We pray for each person undergoing therapy at the moment, that you will give them courage, resilience and hope as they relearn everyday skills with our therapy team. Amen

Why our work is needed

When people with disabilities gain skills that promote independence, their need for support reduces. Many of the people who use our non-residential services have carers at home; an estimated 4.5m people* have become unpaid carers since the pandemic began. When we enable someone to upskill, our work supports the carer and family as well as the person with a disability.

*Carers UK

**A changed life****Livability Hafan y Coed**

Carlos grew up in care but never received a formal education. His deafness and learning disabilities meant he could barely communicate with others.

Moving to a Livability service, Carlos soon thrived in an environment where he could trust people, and where he wouldn't be let down. Learning sign language was a vital skill, enabling him to carve out a career path for himself.

Carlos started learning how to look after plants in a nursery, and later, carpentry skills

Today he works as a cleaner at McDonald's and he loves it. Livability staff supported Carlos to apply for his job and complete training. Now he earns his own money and enjoys paid leave.

Support

As Carlos' story shows, people with disabilities are often capable of much more than has been assumed of them. At Livability, we always look for potential to develop, because growing and learning adds so much to a person's quality of life.

You can donate online at www.livability.org.uk/skills



April

 Join in our video prayer
by clicking here



Week 1

Dear God, we pray for Livability's new Skills Academy formalised learning framework, which will enable people we support to gain accreditation for skills learned. We ask that plans will go ahead smoothly and this venture will be a huge benefit to those we support and tap the potential so many have. Amen

Week 2

We pray for both our education centres, Nash FE College and Victoria School, as senior staff plan out their education offer for coming months and years. We ask that you would meet the needs of each centre, whether in staffing, finance or student enrolment. Amen

Week 3

Lord, we ask that decision-makers at government and local level would release funding and support that enables people with disabilities to learn and develop, and enjoy a fuller life. Amen



Support

Talk to me

Connecting people we support

We're launching a social networking platform for people who are supported by Livability. At testing stage as Prayer Diary goes to press, this facility will give an opportunity for individuals to make new friends, share interests and link up with others in the Livability community. Thanks to adaptive technology and alternative communication aids, disability isn't a barrier to being online, for many of the people we support. The platform and its content is being planned and tested by a group of 'digital ambassadors' who use our service. Online safety is paramount. Please pray this venture will be a springboard to others we support to increase their IT skills and enjoy connecting with others.

Our staff play a huge part in making Livability's services outstanding. Training is part of that, along with an attitude of going the extra mile for the people they support, which so many of our staff display.

Your gift means we have the resources to provide our services with adapted equipment so wherever possible, people we support can access the digital world. You can donate at www.livability.org.uk/donate

Why our work is needed

Having a disability is a significant barrier to gaining a qualification; disabled men are three times less likely to attain qualifications than non-disabled men, 18.1% compared with 6.3%, respectively*. With our new Skills Academy, Livability wants to tackle this disparity and give accredited learning opportunities to as many people with disabilities as possible.

*bit.ly/3rvkOnC

Week 4

We pray for the work of Livability's day services, where people with a wide range of disabilities can come to enjoy activities, learn new things and make friends. Please make a way for more people to benefit from these services. Amen



Support our Skills for Success Appeal today

Carlos had been in care since arriving in the UK as a small child, but no one had ever given him a formal education. That, together with his deafness and inability to communicate, left him feeling abandoned, alone and afraid for his future.



Why skills for success are vital

Some people with disabilities continue to experience discrimination and to feel ignored and isolated.

People with disabilities are almost twice as likely to be unemployed as non-disabled people.

That's why our staff put each person at the centre of their individual support plan. With your help, we'll continue to support people like Carlos to learn new skills and pursue their goals and aspirations.

To help provide more employment for the people we support, please make your gift today.

You can donate by returning the enclosed donation form, calling us on 020 7452 2121 or visiting [livability.org.uk/skills](https://www.livability.org.uk/skills)

About Livability

Livability is the disability charity that's committed to enabling children, young people and adults to live a life that adds up for them.

What makes life livable is never down to just one thing – it's the sum of many things. From friendship to fun; from companionship to community; from a great chat to a challenge overcome – it all adds up to Livability.

Through a wide range of disability care, special education, and rehabilitation services, we promote inclusion and wellbeing for all. Together, we work to see people take part, contribute and be valued. We put the elements in place that all add up to connected lives.

It all adds up to

Livability

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With thanks to Nancy Honey for some photos featured.

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