# Case Study One: Will

Will is 21 years old. His dad, John, has Motor Neurone Disease (MND) in the advanced stages. Will lives at home with his mum, Sarah.

John has been ill for a number of years, and Will has become used to helping his dad. MND is a progressive disease that affects how messages are passed between the brain and the body. Initially this meant that John was not able to walk very well, and had to use a wheelchair which Will pushed when they went out for the day. John’s illness has got a lot worse over the last year, and now he can’t swallow very well. He has a tube fitted into his stomach called a PEG tube. Will and his mum use the tube to give John liquid food four times a day. They also give John some medicines down the tube. The muscles of John’s lungs have also been affected and he has a special machine that helps him to breathe. This is called Non-Invasive Ventilation and was very scary at first, and even though he now he feels like he has got used to it, it is still worrying to think what might happen if it stopped working for some reason. They have also had to turn their living room into a bedroom for John as he cannot get upstairs anymore. The room is full of equipment that the carers need to help John get washed and dressed. Sarah and Will also use this equipment sometimes if John needs his personal care doing and the carers are not there. Lots of people come to visit John and Sarah but this is often when Will is at college. John sleeps a lot at the moment but Will likes to be around the house in case he is needed, and to be with his Dad.

Will has been struggling with his college work and has been thinking about dropping out so that he can help his mum more at home. He worries about the future but doesn’t want to upset his mum or dad by talking about it.

Sarah has asked you to get in touch with Will as she is worried about how he is coping with his Dad’s illness.