**SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELL-BEING (WALES) ACT**

**CASE STUDY**

**Huw**

Huw is 42 and fell off his bicycle. Huw was unconscious for a number of hours before being taken to hospital as he had fallen on a remote country road. Huw has no recollection of what happened. He only remembers waking up in hospital a week after the accident. He had been put into an induced coma to relieve swelling of his brain. Huw suffered from a fractured skull. During his time in hospital he had to learn to walk again and improve his balance as that was affected.

Huw is divorced. He has no family that live locally and many of his friends are married with young children. Huw and his wife did not have children. Since his divorce Huw has become quite isolated and withdrawn and does not have reliable social supports. Huw was discharged from hospital after three weeks without help or support and he feels he was just expected to ‘get on with it’.

Huw, as a result of the accident, has short-term memory problems, has difficulties processing and retaining information and suffers from severe fatigue. He is also feeling depressed and is losing weight rapidly because he forgets to eat due to his short term memory problem – he also forgets to take medication. He has found writing lists helpful to prompt his memory and has post-its around his house.

Huw was self-employed as a management consultant and has had to give up his business as he can no longer continue to work as before. He was in receipt of Employment and Support Allowance but this has now been stopped and is not being renewed. He is worried about his finances and wonders if he can draw his pension earlier, even if this is possible he is worried that this will eventually run out and that he will be stuck financially. He wishes to work again and wants to be supported to return to work but feels he needs support to manage his cognitive impairments first. He thinks that he may have to do a different job than before and is really keen to ‘feel like a human again’. He feels that he does not know who to turn to for support. His GP has referred him to a neuropsychologist but he says “I haven’t heard anything from them and I was referred months ago”.

Huw heard about the council’s new information, advice and assistance service from his local library and hopes they can help him. However, he is nervous about his memory, abilities to process and retain information. Nonetheless he contacts the centre and explains his situation in particular the issues with his memory.

What are the key barriers to Huw fully participating in co-producing his desired outcomes?

How might you suggest Huw become engaged and actively participate in making steps to meet his desired outcomes?