



Name: Marcus Ward

Joined: October 2019 (age 27)

Country: Ireland

Name of the Organization:

Spina Bifida Hydrocephalus
Ireland (SBHI)

About my Organization:

- Supports people living with spina bifida and hydrocephalus in Ireland
- Raises awareness of spina bifida and hydrocephalus
- Organises social events such as an annual conference and summer camps
- Advocates for rights and services for people living with SB/H
- Fosters an environment in which every person affected by spina bifida and hydrocephalus can lead a fulfilled life.

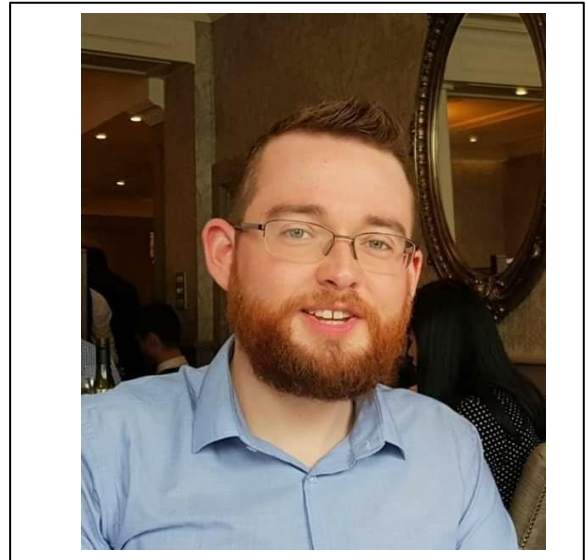
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About me:

Hi everyone, my name is Marcus Ward and I am from Donegal in the Republic of Ireland. I was born with the neurological condition spina bifida and also with hydrocephalus. I am a full-time wheelchair user but I don't let this hold me back in any way. I live independently in my own apartment with two housemates. I hold a degree in Spanish and French from the Open University and I also tutor students those languages. My hobbies include reading, playing wheelchair basketball and socialising with friends.

As someone who has had to spend a lot of time in hospitals and received great care, I wanted to be able to give something back. I joined the EPF Youth Group in 2019 after participating in the STYPA programme earlier that year. I am also a member of the IFSBH Youth Group, the International Federation for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus.

Patient advocacy has become a strong passion of mine over the last 3 years as I believe we can be our own advocates and fight for ourselves. It is a privilege for me to be able to carry out advocacy work for two organisations that mean so much to me. Thanks for reading!