

Here are Shaun's thoughts on visiting the institution in the Czech Republic:

“Anne, Phil, Dan and I visited Petra in Prague. Petra works for Lumos, she really helped us on our trip. On one of the days we were there we went to go and have a look around a big institution for adults with learning disabilities. The institution was about 2 hours drive outside Prague.

This was a very interesting trip but I found it quite upsetting and it made me feel angry. This was because the place felt like a prison, some of the windows had metal bars, and older parts of the building were in really poor condition, rooms were overcrowded and smelt really bad. The people who lived there seemed as though they were not important, unfortunately we didn't have enough time to speak to them.

The institution also built houses which could have up to eight people living there. The idea was to move people from the institutions and get them to live in supported housing. To me, they felt like mini institutions. They smelt like hospitals, they had offices for staff to work in and people who lived there did not have privacy. It just didn't feel like a home.

It made me think about me and my learning disability. If I were born in the Czech Republic I would probably be in an institution similar to the one we visited. I wouldn't have the life I have, my children and my job. This was quite scary.”