

One Family's Transition Journey

A young person (P) aged 15 with a severe learning disability and visual impairment lives in the family home with her parents and siblings.

P displays self-injurious and other behaviour described as challenging.

A crisis situation is reached and emergency services are called

Family were previously reluctant to ask for help due to stigma associated with social care and fear that their child may be taken away.



P's family request support

The family was not included in discussions about P's care and treatment and no practical support was offered. Following changes to medication, P's challenging behaviour escalated.



Second crisis reached and emergency services called, young person taken to A&E and admitted to paediatric ward

Agreed by all that social care placement is needed due to high levels of self-injurious behaviour.



Delayed discharge due to lack of social care placement

During this time, P's social worker changed and unsuitable, out of area placements were proposed, that the family did not consider to be in P's best interest.



Dispute about where P should live; family court proceedings initiated

P was given a discharge date from hospital, but no suitable, interim placement had been found.



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Still aged 15, P is moved into a local care home

This move was facilitated by the manager of the care home, who empathised with P's situation.



The care home, a children's home, served notice when P turns 18

P's move was brought forward as a result of the first national lockdown during the Covid-19 pandemic.



Assessment of need completed and agreement that bespoke placement is required



Disjointed approach and delayed decision led to inappropriate out of area placement (age 18)

Family advised to apply for deputyship in order to advocate for P.



Intensive family input (advocating as health and welfare deputies) to secure appropriate, local service and support for P



18 months later, P moves to bespoke placement in home county

Insecure tenancy puts the placement at risk.

What would have made that transition journey better?

