One Family's Transition Journey

A young person (T) aged 19 with autism lives in in a residential school 300 miles away from his family, including his mother (L).

T is non-verbal, and displays behaviours described as challenging

T lived at home with L and attended a special needs school local to his family home. He received social care support which worked well.

L suspected that something was wrong at school, and T's behaviours were his way of communicating this.



When T was 14, his behaviour increased at school. He was very reluctant to leave the taxi and enter school.

There was no behaviour change at home or at the social care placement. Staff were not looking to understand the reasons for T's behaviour or how to support him.



No additional support was received and the previous social care support ended leaving L with no support for 7 months and no overnight care for 2 years.



The school blamed T's mother for the increase in behaviour and an attendance officer referred T to social services for additional support as L cared for T alone.



When T was 15, it was provisionally agreed that he would receive 44 weeks residential care.



L took legal action due to the lack of social care provision, and failure to update his EHC plan for 3 years



Lappealed to the SEND tribunal which resulted in T being offered a 52 week residential school placement at the start of the next academic year. L requested to reduce the number of weeks to 44 weeks

This funding for the school named in the EHCP was not put in place by the local authority so the placement fell through and T was out of education for I year.



At age 17, T moved 300 miles away from L and his local community to attend a 44 week residential school. The setting agreed to fund family travel to adjourn a High Court appeal by L.

After the High Court hearing ended, funding stopped. L had to pay for social care provision in school holidays.



A new 44 week placement closer to home for T was rejected due to additional costs. L appealed to tribunal but was given a hearing date for I years time



T is now 19 years old and there is currently no plan in place for T's transition to adult services once his current residential school placement ends next month.



L found a solicitor to challenge (judicial review) the lack of social care provision. As a result a social care package was put in place

L has contacted the local authority about transition to adulthood many times before T turned 18 years but was ignored.



Aged 18, T was allocated a social worker from adult social care to start transition planning and an assessment of needs



What would have made that transition journey better?

Access to a transition
coordinator who will focus on
what is possible, not just what is
available

Ensuring that transition services are extended until the young person turns 25

Cultural change to value the young person's right to a family life and put their views, feelings and what matters to them at the centre of the transition process

Understand the importance of the right support, in the right place at the right time and the harm and additional cost caused by failure to deliver this Social of trained in and A

Social care staff who are trained in Trauma Informed and Whole Family

Approaches

Ensuring that the transition process begins well in advance of the young person reaching transition age

Consistency of social care staff throughout the transition process

Ensuring that information is recorded accurately by staff during the transition assessment and planning process