

# One Family's Transition Journey

A young person (T) aged 19 with autism lives 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**



**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**



**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 appealed 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 1 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 1 years time**



# What would have made that transition journey better?

