

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?

