

Issue

N is a young man with a multi-sensory impairment – he is profoundly deaf and has fluctuating vision. He also has a heart condition, a learning disability and emotional difficulties. At the time of his allocation to the Preparation for Adulthood Team, N was a Looked After Child placed in an out of area specialist provision; he lived in the onsite children’s residential placement where he had 24 hour support. N had a very limited peer group at the school and was socially isolated and engaged only with staff.

N also had limited involvement with community activities and the majority of his daily tasks were completed for him by onsite staff. N experienced difficulties with his mental health whilst in the residential placement, including periods of anxiety, self-harm, absconding attempts and physical aggression towards staff members. He also caused damage to his environment. The police and crisis teams had to be called on a number of occasions to help with managing incidents. N was often restrained, received formal police warnings and on one occasion was arrested. He also spent some time in a specialist mental health hospital receiving treatment.

Approach Taken

The Preparation for Adulthood Team became involved and supported N to consider his aspirations for the future through a vocational profile. N was clear that he wished to live more independently and wanted to learn to do things for himself. Work was completed to help N to consider his options for accommodation and support and a plan was developed for N to secure a placement with his preferred provider.

Unfortunately during the planning stages, N was arrested following an incident at his residential placement for assaulting a member of staff. As a consequence, the children’s residential home served immediate notice. The Preparation for Adulthood Team supported N to source alternate emergency/temporary accommodation. Further planning was then completed with N and he was supported to move to his own tenancy with his chosen provider.

Through work with N and the support provider to set and review outcomes, it has been possible to reduce N’s support to 10 hours per week. N has been supported to develop coping strategies which he utilises to manage his emotions and any situations he finds difficult. N is hoping that in time he can reduce his support even further.

Outcomes/Impact

When N first moved into his accommodation he had a 24 hour package of support from the care provider. However over a period of 6 months, N’s skills and confidence have improved significantly. N is now going out with friends, using public transport independently, and undertaking his own shopping and cooking. N left school and is now attending college where he is completing work experience. N has also been discharged from mental health services as he no longer requires any intervention and there are no concerns regarding his behaviour.

