

EDGE OF CARE SERVICES WORK

In Bristol we were recently commissioned by a local authority to provide support to a 15 year old young person who was diagnosed with ADHD, Asperger's Syndrome and a non specific mental disorder.

The intention was for the YP to remain at home within the family unit and have access to trained staff who would work towards keeping him safe and away from crime. His behaviour had been spiraling out of control, with him absconding for up to a week at a time, taking drugs and engaging in inappropriate sexual relationships. The Children's and Young Peoples Team did not have the resources to provide the highest level of support to reduce his negative behavior, but needed to effect positive change for an appropriate school to consider enrolling him and thus preventing the need for full time residential care.

Initially two members of Next Step staff supported the young person and provided an activity based plan (mainly free or low cost activities) aimed at averting his attention from running off and allowing staff to get to know him and help identify possible reasons for his behaviour.

After a short time, only one staff member was required to support him, whilst the other worked with the family to help them understand what they had identified from the young Person as the motivation and reasons for his actions. This also gave the family, as recent contactees with Social Services, Youth Offending Team, Youth Justice System etc, the opportunity to learn from our staff about the other agencies involved, to understand the multidisciplinary approach to supporting the child in care, and to gain an insight into possible outcomes.

As the young person's behaviour leveled out and improved, referrals were made to several schools equipped to support his needs, and he is now finally settled and doing very well at his new school where he is now able to interact in a positive way with peers and staff. .

We feel our work with this young person was a success due to him remaining supported within the family unit, yet targeting our support around him to keep him safe, away from crime and outside negative influences that had previously caused a great deal of stress to his parents and siblings and precipitated his previous behaviour spinning out of control.

We provided a cost effective approach for the Children's and Families team by targeting support heavily in the short term to prevent long term care intervention. We estimate that had the young person been taken into full time care the cost would have been far greater than the £1000.00 per week we charged, as the residential costs for him were set to be in excess of £6000.00 per week. We feel a positive outcome was achieved for all, not least for the young person, who after a short well targeted programme of support has not needed to be placed in the care system

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For area offices please
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