

Appendix 1: Case Study – Alison and Robert

**Note that the names have been changed for the purposes of the case study presented below.*

Alison and Robert are both 22 years old and have similar support requirements in relation to their visual impairments and care needs. They have known each other for a long time having attended the same primary/secondary schools (Brookfields and The Royal School for the Blind). They have always been friendly towards each other.

When the Transition Team became involved, Alison was attending an educational placement at the David Lewis Centre in Alderley Edge (term-time Mon-Thu, including overnight stays) and Robert was living at a specialist, out-of-area educational placement, The Seashell Trust in Cheadle Hulme.

Given the close relationship between Alison and Robert and their families, it was felt that they may be compatible to share a tenancy. Other options for both of them had been considered, including long-term placements out-of-borough, however, after working very closely with Alison and Robert and their families, it was felt that Alison's and Robert's outcomes would be more positive and least restrictive to live in their own communities and near their families.

As a result of the approach taken by the Transition Team, a shared tenancy was arranged for Alison and Robert, in Runcorn, keeping them within the borough close to their families rather than in an out-of-borough placement. The Transition Team ensured that the accommodation and package of support was appropriate to meet Alison's and Robert's needs, which are described further below:

About Alison...

Alison has complex health and behavioural needs as a result of the following conditions – learning disability, autism, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Retts Syndrome, visual impairment, unstable gait due to toe walking and stomach pain which causes distress (thought to be due to Retts Syndrome).

Alison needs support with personal care and is doubly incontinent. Alison is not able to verbally communicate, requiring someone who can effectively interpret her needs. All care needs are pre-empted and assistance of 2:1 is required on intervention, when distressed and in the community.

Alison can display behaviours such as head banging/butting (wears head protection), hitting herself in the face/head/stomach/legs, screaming, rocking and pacing. The triggers can include hunger, boredom, pain, refusal, communication and, more likely, bowel movements.

About Robert...

Robert has diagnoses of autism, severe learning disabilities and cortical visual impairment with difficulty in his lower field of vision. Robert also has epilepsy; he does not take medication for this, however, he does need monitoring for seizures.

Robert needs support with all personal care tasks and is doubly incontinent. Robert has limited speech and is mainly non-verbal. He can experience anxiety at times such as when his personal space is invaded, which in the past has resulted in destructive behaviour.

Robert is constantly on the move and exploring his surroundings; he requires support to remain focused on an activity for any length of time. He has very little danger awareness and requires support on hand to ensure he is safe at all times. He has 2:1 support in the community and at times of intervention and distress.

Bungalow accommodation was identified via Housing Panel and the Transition Team engaged with the housing provider to make the necessary adjustments and adaptations that were needed with support from the Occupational Therapist. The Team made sure that the major works and adaptations were complete prior to the start of the tenancy because both Alison and Robert have autism and would therefore need to experience as little disruption as possible.

The Transition Team also ensured that the right package of support would be in place for Alison and Robert. A provider was established that could offer the high level of support required. It was also arranged for the provider to visit Alison and Robert within their existing placements in order to shadow the staff, share information and develop plans. Following assessment, day services were also arranged to support their day time activities.

A number of transition planning meetings were co-ordinated by the Transition Team, which have included both Alison's and Robert's parents and the multi-disciplinary team (MDT) – Social Workers, Learning Disability Occupational Therapist, Children's Complex Needs Nurse, Community Matron, the housing provider, Domiciliary Care Provider, day service providers and Community Bridge Builders to advise on local services and resources. Support has also been given for Robert from speech and language therapy (SALT) and learning disability nursing in relation to health action planning.

The package of support so far has been successful; both Alison and Robert have settled in their new house, which their parents have made into a home. The funding of the placement is via HBC Social Care, CHC, a personal health budget, direct payments and the use of a local Domiciliary Care Provider and a supporting care agency. There have been positive reports/reviews in terms of compatibility and the level of support in place. The provider staff have been pro-active; their management team has ensured that the staff in place are appropriately trained. They have also shown a high level of commitment and flexibility to the transition process and demonstrated effective person-centred support.

As well as improved outcomes for Alison and Robert, the following cost savings have been achieved:

<i>Annual costs</i>	Alison	Robert	Total
Previous costs (David Lewis / Seashell)	£168,169.00	£170,065.70	£338,234.70
New costs (in borough)	£158,984.28	£169,598.52	£328,582.80
Annual saving	£9,184.72	£467.18	£9,651.90