

**Appendix 1**

Named social  
worker  
project

LS

# LS

- I started working with LS to plan his move from care when he turns 18
- LS lives in care because he could not be kept safe at home due to his behaviours, LS has a lot of difficulties managing his emotions and actions when he is anxious, confused or frustrated.
- There has been a lot of confusion amongst professionals about LS's diagnoses and what services can best support him
- During our planning to move back to Halton LS's care provider said they could not manage his safely anymore and we had no choice but to find him another place to live, the time frame was very short and nothing local could be sourced that parents agreed with

## What is important to LS?

- LS was very clear that he wants to move back to Halton to be near his family
- LS has lots of interests in activities and sports but needs support to keep him safe when doing these, LS doesn't want to be supported by 2 staff but understands this is because of his behaviour
- LS wants to please others but finds this difficult because of how he behaves sometimes
- It is important to LS to be seen as a grown up and not be treated like a child

## As a named social worker...

- I started working with LS on making a person centred plan for moving on from care when he is 18
- I have advocated within the multi-disciplinary team for LS's wishes to move back to Halton to be respected and balanced with the risks
- I have stayed involved in LS's case despite him moving over 1.5 hrs away so that he has continuity of people involved and try to support his long term aim of moving back to Halton if this is possible
- Completed transition assessment of LS's needs
- Worked closely with his children in care social worker to ensure his new placement is meeting his needs and wishes

## **Before the pilot/background**

- LS was living in a children's home, he is in Care on section 20 order. LS lives in care due to his aggressive challenging behaviours which were too risky for his adoptive parents to manage at home. LS is loved and supported by his family but they could not keep LS, themselves and LS's younger sister safe in the family home.
- Although LS's family were involved in his life they did not have experience of having much 'say' in his care, this was managed well but by Children's social care
- LS had always expressed his view that he wanted to return to Halton, parents' view was that he should not return to Halton due to risks he presents to the family when he absconds. Professionals involved with LS generally agreed with parents.
- LS's rights to make decisions appeared to be superseded by risk management plans. Mental Capacity Act procedures had not been used

**Update March 2018**

## During the pilot

- Unfortunately LS's children's home placement broke down in November. LS was placed in Derbyshire as an emergency as there was no where closer that could manage his needs.
- I worked on a plan to support LS into a supported living environment with a bespoke staff team around him, this aimed to get LS back to Halton, develop independent living skills and learn about 'adulthood'. Parents and children's services did not agree with this plan and LS was placed in Derbyshire.
- The settling in period in Derbyshire appeared to go well. I used this time to try to build on my relationship with parents and explain more about supported living and how this might work.
- Since January the placement has struggled to manage aggressive behaviours. A number of emergency multi-agency meetings were held to try and stabilise the placement. Plans were not successful and have culminated in notice being served, meaning a new placement is needed. Derbyshire have refused to transport LS to school. I arranged a personal assistant to drive LS to and from school.
- There has been police involvement due to incidents of aggression and LS is awaiting the outcome of a Youth Offending Panel. I have advocated on LS's behalf, with the other professionals around LS that the criminal justice route is not the right one for LS due to his complex needs.
- I have again worked on a plan of LS moving into supported accommodation. This has at times been unsupported by parents due to their concern for his safety. LS still wants to move closer to his family. Although LS has a clear idea of where he wants to live, he cannot manage his behaviour to keep himself and others safe.
- Due to the risks LS poses to himself and others secure accommodation under the Mental Health Act has also been explored. The risk of being detained remains.

# Update March 2018

## **Now**

- Parents are now aware of the Mental Capacity Act and understand that LS has the right to make decisions as an adult
- Parents have been very involved in care arrangements and have interviewed potential providers with me and commissioning. We have built an honest and open relationship
- Police are considering an 'out of Court sanction' for the charges against LS
- LS is not currently being considered for an admission to secure accommodation
- LS knows there are plans for him to move closer to home
- An Independent social worker has been commissioned for a mental capacity assessment around accommodation
- A referral to Halton's self-advocacy service has been made
- LS is waiting to be allocated a learning disability nurse for when he returns to Halton
- Although there are many challenges ahead the team around LS is 'on the same page' and using a solution focussed approach to make future plans that are in line with LS's wishes but are appropriately safe and with risks balanced against freedom

**Update March 2018**

- I have developed my confidence and skills in advocating in a multi-disciplinary environment, using knowledge of legislation and policy to rationalise my position
- I have had the support of my strong team which has helped me maintain direction and a solution focussed approach to supporting LS and his wishes
- I have had the time to build relationships; with children's social care professionals, family, positive behaviour support service
- Building relationships and trust has resulted in a team approach to LS's case and an agreed future plan of moving LS back to Halton which may not have been achieved without these relationships and mutual understanding

**Because of the NSW project...**