

CASE STUDY FOUR- Jonathon

Male

Age on admission: 16 years

Age on discharge: 16 years

Length of stay: 6 months, 6 weeks transitional outreach work

Purchaser: Out of county placement

Reason for admission:

Cannabis, alcohol, ecstasy, criminal activity.. absconding, sexualised behaviour, refusal of education, emotional, social and behavioural difficulties. Feelings of abandonment and rejection.

Background Information:

Jonathon had a very troubled childhood and was known to social services for many years which resulted in him being accommodated under s20 Children's Act 1989. Family history of drug misuse, physical and emotional abuse. A Statement of Educational Needs was assessed to be appropriate for him in relation to his emotional, social and behavioural difficulties.

Aims of placement at Companions

Engage Jonathon in group and one-one work

Facilitate a program which incorporates how to maintain:- good mental health, acceptable attitude and skills to enable him to successfully contribute to society.

Engage him in education and vocational training to increase life chances and economic well-being

Facilitate appropriate and constructive contact with family

Address the issues around the misuse of substances and criminal behaviour

Utilise music, aromatherapy, counselling and art to encourage him to express feelings and gain tools on how to manage anger and frustration.

Allow Jonathon to find own identity whilst learning about his roots in an environment where he feels safe and understood.

Promote self worth, confidence and motivation to enable the him to take control over own actions and consequences to non-conformity.

Provide experience and tools to living independently

Prior to admission to Companions

Prior to Jonathon visiting Companions he had refused to engage in any other services or placements. During his visit to Companions Jonathon stated he felt comfortable and agreed to access our service. The admission process involved professionals from health, education, leaving care team, and social services. It was felt by the appropriate professionals that Jonathon did not require to access a detox program prior to his admission.

At Companions Hunters Moon

Jonathon quickly settled making sound relationships with staff and other residents. His commitment to want to do well and achieve a good level of education was outstanding. Jonathon accessed and participated in counseling sessions, aromatherapy, music, pets as therapy and art which resulted in the staff team addressing and understanding the underlying problems which had led him to start taking illegal drugs and alcohol.

During the educational assessment Jonathon was assessed as being capable of following the GCSE program. This was facilitated in-house and education became a passion with the young person. Following 5 months of intense work he sat his exams and achieved GCSE grades in mathematics and English.

Personalised programs were implemented to address, criminal behaviour, sexual health, drugs & alcohol and relationships.

Jonathon was given opportunities and encouragement to engage in learning skills for life and also integration into the community. He enjoyed off-site activities including golf, horse riding, fishing, swimming, football, gym and snooker He was not so eager to assist with the house-hold chores, however, encouragement was given which resulted in the young person keeping their own room clean and tidy.

Jonathon did take responsibility and a mature attitude when implementing an independence program which included food and personal needs shopping, accessing housing and transport networks, interviews for work placements and further education facilities.

Jonathon stated that he did not wish to return to his local area therefore plans were put into place for him to live in the Staffordshire area with support from Leaving Care team, Connexions and transitional support from Companions.

Outreach support

Transitional outreach support was provided by Companions on a decreasing scale over a period of 6 weeks. This enabled Jonathon to gradually disengage and integrate into society and access other professionals.

Outcome

Jonathon did find it hard to acclimatise to living on his own and although Companions was willing to increase the support his local authority felt it not necessary. He does maintain contact with Companions.

Names have been changed to protect identity