

[Case Study –

Personal profile	<p>Lee is an 18 year old man, who currently lives in his own flat in Widnes.</p> <p>Lee has an EHCP in place and a diagnosis of Autism.</p> <p>Lee is in receipt of 30 hours a week, direct payment, to support him to maintain his own independent living skills. Lee was a previously a looked after child and is subject to Section 20 of the Children Act 1989</p> <p>Lee has informal support from his mother, who provides him with emotional support and very much remains 'mum', rather than the care giver.</p>
What did we do?	<p>A referral was made into the Transitions team a few years ago, as Lee had an EHCP in place and met the criteria for the team.</p> <p>Lee was accommodated under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989, living in a registered care placement. Lee has a history of aggressive challenging behaviour towards Mum at home and this is the reason he was accommodated under the Children's Act a few years ago. Lee has a diagnosis of Autism and experiences high levels of anxiety which impact his daily life significantly. Recently, Lee felt he had 'grown up' a lot and his Personal Assistant praises Lee, for his development and progress at The iMAP School, a specialist school in Chester linked to his accommodation provider. There is a variation in place from Ofsted in place to enable Lee to stay there in the short term until an alternative placement was found, as he had reached 18 and the service needed approvals to provide support from the Care Quality Commission. Before The iMAP school, Lee attended West Kirby Residential School where he was a day student. Lee reports he is currently studying his Maths, English and Functional Skills. In Lee's EHCP it is noted his aspirations include becoming a hairdresser.</p> <p>Lee was aware that he needed to leave the children's home and wanted to do this as soon as possible. His Social Worker had completed a Section 9 assessment with Lee and had regular meetings with Lee's Mum and the current care provider iMAP when attempting to find the most appropriate setting. The Social Worker has regularly attended ASC Housing Panel, where Signature House had been assessed as the most appropriate place for Lee, in terms of the support that could be offered. The Service would be able to provide support, within his own flat, as well as the location being good for Lee as he wants to attend the local College to complete a hairdressing course. Lee was understandably anxious around the new property, as it was a big change in his life. However, he wanted to return to the Halton area as this is where his family are and where he grew up.</p>

Lee benefits from routine so that he knows what to expect now and what is coming next, this helps to reduce anxiety levels. Lee wished to live alone rather than share with others. The Social Worker had identified the place where Lee will be moving to. To inform this approach, the social worker and care provider needed to be aware of the following as the rationale for needing to live on his own.

- Due to Lee's Autism he uses self-regulatory behaviours including "pacing" which he is very self-conscious about, he does not like to be observed when doing this and needs a private space for this.

- Level of noise from living with others (clients themselves and support staff that will inherently be increased by sharing with others).

- Unexpected change is a main trigger for Lee, living with others increases the unknowns involved in everyday life (movements of others, support staff for others, routine changes for others etc).

The Social Worker then worked with Lee to develop his support plan, in terms of how the support would look to offer them assurances to him.

Support hours;

Lee needed access to support, as he transitioned into his new place. Although Lee attended school full time, an initial period of contingency support was needed for if Lee refused to go to school as this is a common behaviour for Lee when his anxieties are heightened and his routine disturbed.

Lee attended The iMAP School, Great Barrow. After the transitional period, term time support hours will reflect his school timetable (9am-3pm Mon-Fri) until July 2023.

Lee needed time to build a rapport with staff, it is essential to have trusted and reliable people who can ease Lee's anxieties. Without these relationships, Lee would struggle to self-regulate and manage his own anxieties which may result in behaviours that challenge. The support needed to be right for Lee. PossAbilities had assessed Lee and agreed that they can meet his care needs in his own place. the Social Worker had sought some assurances from the housing provider too, in terms of any 'white

	<p>goods' and furnishings that were needed, liaising with his Personal Assistant who could look towards funding this through a Care Leavers grant.</p> <p>Lee moved into his new property in October 2023 and this is working really well for him. Lee continues to express his wish to attend the local college and has support from the college, as well as the Positive Behaviour Support Service, to make sure that his Support Plan remains relevant, strengths based and enables Lee to lead and live a fulfilled life, learning new skills and doing well.</p>
Barriers	<p>There were no real barriers other than delays in sourcing the current accommodation for Lee post 18. This was completed rather quickly though.</p> <p>Also, managing expectations from family was an issue initially. When a child is accommodated within such a high cost and highly restrictive setting, it can become difficult to highlight to the young person and their family that something less restrictive could achieve positive outcomes. This was overcome in this case, but time was needed to offer that assurance once the case was allocated to the team.</p>
Outcomes	<p>In October 20203, the Supported tenancy had been secured for Lee.</p> <p>Lee was assessed as requiring 30 hours per week to support him each day with daily routines (2.5hrs per day x 7 days = 17.5hrs per week) as well as weekly support with shopping, management of the flat including cleaning and laundry and also to access the community.</p> <p>Lee had a placement in a young person day provision, which is behind his flat, 3 days a week.</p> <p>The Social Worker had also referred Lee to the council's Appointees service, and this was in place to support his move, as well as support from the Care Leavers Team and the use of the Care Leavers grant to get furniture for his property.</p> <p>30 hours 1:1 @ £18.10 per week = £543.00 Shared sleep support = 1/12share of 8hrs @ £ 9.87 per night x 7 days = £46.06 Shared day support = 1/12share of 16hrs @ £18.10 x 7 days = £168.93</p> <p>Weekly total = £757.99</p> <p>Saving = £3,428.01 per week x 52 = £178,256.52 per year</p>

reflection	<p>Lee is happy with his new flat and the support that is being offered.</p> <p>Ideally, the social worker would have planned the move a little earlier, but the move is working well and we have achieved Lee's desired outcome, which was to live in the local area and access things he enjoys. Also, to have a positive relationship with mum and give mum the assurances that her son is being cared for appropriately.</p>