



## Craig's Story – a Transition to Foster Care

Craig lived with his mother, stepfather and 2 younger siblings until aged 13. He was taken into care following concerns around chronic neglect and alleged physical abuse from his stepfather. There were significant indications that Craig may also have been a victim of sexual abuse. There were also disclosures around sexually inappropriate behaviour between Craig and his younger sister which Craig later admitted to. Craig was taken into foster care however, following 2 placement breakdowns due to escalating behaviour, Craig was admitted to Amberleigh Care aged 14. Prior to his arrival at Amberleigh Craig had been home schooled following concerns from his school around sexualised behaviour.

- Been in care from age of 13
- Had 2 foster placement breakdowns
- High levels of aggressive outbursts
- A likely victim of sexual abuse demonstrating trauma symptoms
- A perpetrator of sexual abuse inside and outside the family
- Controlling and aggressive behaviour
- Signs of Oppositional Conduct Disorder
- Attachment disorder

### Placement approach

During his 3 years at Amberleigh Care Craig received a holistic approach of Care, Therapy and Education. Staff were able to introduce a consistent nurturing environment to address issues resulting from years of neglect. Craig worked closely with his keyworker to address learning gaps with some basic life skills.

Craig's consistent relationship with his keyworker was paramount to his success in placement. Craig became a very popular member of the community and was always willing to help others. Craig's development in all areas gave him a great foundation enabling him to move into a foster placement.

### Key Outcomes

- Stable placement 3 years
- Craig was able to build and maintain positive relationships whilst at Amberleigh Care
- Craig was a valued member of St John's Ambulance and gained a first aid qualification.
- Craig turned into an excellent cook and developed in all areas of independence
- Significant reduction in aggression and increased pro social behaviours
- Craig moved into a foster placement aged 17
- No further evidence of sexually harmful behaviour

### Key elements

Long term therapeutic community placement, weekly therapy, ongoing assessment and management of risk, full time education, support with college transitions, group living experience to build social skills and functioning, independent living skills

*"Craig has become a confident young man who will go out of his way to help others" – Care Team Leader 2017*

