



Ben's Story – a Transition to Independence

Ben lived with his parents until the age of 14, he was academically gifted and had an excellent attendance record, although was described as quite withdrawn by his local mainstream school. He was diagnosed and prescribed with medication for ADHD. Ben experienced quite an unstable family environment and was somewhat ostracised by his parents. Still aged 14, Ben was convicted of a serious sexual assault and served 12 months in a children's secure unit. He was then referred and admitted to Amberleigh Care aged 15 to complete the remainder of his sentence on licence in the community. Ben's key profile was as follows:

- Unstable family environment
- Diagnosed ADHD
- Academically gifted
- Ostracised at home and school
- Convicted perpetrator of sexual abuse
- Lack of empathy and ability to build relationships
- 12 months in children's secure unit

Placement approach

During his 2 ½ years at Amberleigh Care Ben received a holistic approach of Care, Therapy and Education. Ben had excellent communication skills which masked some of his vulnerabilities. Staff were able to reassure Ben that it is ok to make mistakes in life.

Ben developed many positive relationships whilst at Amberleigh and this gave him the confidence to thrive in all aspects of his independence programme. Ben had a particular aptitude for financial budgeting.

Ben's progress was awarded with the internal appointment of community chairman.

Following his achievements in college Ben was rewarded with an apprenticeship in his chosen career

Key Outcomes

- Stable placement 2 ½ years
- No sexualised acting out behaviours
- Engaged in full time education and achieved qualifications
- Became significant role model to his peers in therapeutic community
- Transitioned to college full time and gained a Distinction in Business Studies Course
- Lived independently within the home for latter part of placement
- Planned transition to fully independent accommodation
- Offered full time apprenticeship in chosen career path
- Ongoing "keeping in touch" contact provided

Key elements

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

"Ben excelled at college and achieved a distinction on his course. He has the aptitude to progress to university level study should he wish" - College placement 2018

