



School Age Life Stage Case Study

Case Study

Multi Agency Support: Ann

Related Outcome

Children/young people and their families receive appropriate multi agency support; Children/young people who present challenging behaviour are identified early and supported positively.

Progress Update

Ann is 16 and resides in a privately let four bedroom house in Bathgate with her mother, two brothers and nephew. Her father was convicted for a schedule one offence in 1998 and so lives elsewhere and does not have unsupervised contact with the children.

Following a successful transition into Secondary, with Level E achievements in reading, writing and mathematics, she coped well in First Year. By Term Two of Second Year, teaching staff alerted her Head of House with concerns about her attention seeking behaviour and reluctance to work in classes except music and art. Her attendance also deteriorated significantly, although her mother always informed the school it was for medical reasons. At a meeting held in the school attended by Ann and Mum, her mother shared her concerns about her behaviour at home and in the community. This coincided with contact from Youth Justice regarding incidents of Breach of the Peace, under the influence of alcohol and failure to return home.

A Children's Hearing was called and Ann was placed on a Compulsory Supervision Order, residing at home. Following on from an Integrated Assessment Meeting, concerns, desired interventions and appropriate support agencies were identified. As Ann was a Looked After Child the Lead Professional role automatically sat with the allocated Social Worker who took responsibility for leading on the plan.

Ann had support from the LAC Nurse working with the school mental health worker around issues of alcohol abuse, the LAC Outreach Teacher within her school setting and a project worker from Barnardo's Health and Psychiatry. The school's Educational Psychologist was used in a consultancy role. Mum and Ann were actively involved in the initial meeting and all subsequent reviews.

Although she engaged well with all support agencies, her school attendance continued to drop further and her behaviour within mainstream classes became increasingly more challenging. Peer relationships in school also deteriorated further at this time. Following a further Integrated Assessment Review, a referral was made by the lead Professional to the Senior Officer Review Group. The outcome was an offer of a block of music therapy and a place in an alternative educational provision within a Community Centre.



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Related Impact on Individuals / Communities

- Ann has progressed from receiving a universal service to planned and intensive multi agency interventions.
- Despite periods of volatility and emotional difficulty, Ann and her family have been involved and engaged in the full process. In particular, Ann has been able to contribute well and realistically in meetings and Ann and her family have embraced the supports that have been agreed at these meetings.
- Ann has excellent attendance and engagement across the range of additional supports that have been put in place, has remained focused on academic achievement and is on course to be presented with five Standard Grades (English, Maths, Modern Studies, Science and History).
- Ann is enthusiastic about her impending programme of work with RUTs and continues her interest in music and art.
- The most recent Review agreed that the LAC Outreach teacher and school mental health worker would plan a phased withdrawal.
- Ann has also maintained a close relationship with her mother, despite her volatile behaviour at times. She is much more open and able to talk about her feelings and turn to her mother for help during times of stress.
- Despite challenges, Ann has sustained positive relationships, has remained on board with the professionals supporting her and has sustained her schooling.
- We are optimistic that Ann will go on to achieve as she deserve to do so.

Partners / Agencies involved

Barnardos, LAC Nurse, school mental health worker, schools' Educational Psychologist, Social Worker, Youth Justice worker, LAC Outreach teacher, alternative educational provision.