

Annex 2 – Big Fostering Partnership Case Studies



Big Fostering Partnership Case Study



M is a 9-year-old boy from Staffordshire and whilst residing in the care of his birth parents he suffered neglectful parenting, which was contributed to by their substance misuse. Unfortunately, this led to M being accommodated by the Local Authority and he was placed in a residential setting and subsequently placed with a foster family, sadly they were unable to meet his needs, and this led to M being placed back in a residential setting for a period of time. M has complex additional needs and is diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy, Ventriculomegaly, Hydrocephalous with VP shunt and Epilepsy. M is also diagnosed with a visual impairment (Bilateral Optic nerve hypoplasia) and a mild to moderate hearing loss in his left ear. He is wheelchair dependent when out in the community but when at home he likes to be down on the floor where he can crawl around independently.

The Big Fostering Partnership, through its delivery partner National Fostering Group searched for a family who would be able to not only give M a nurturing family but also provide the home environment and skills needed to care for his physical and medical needs.

M was matched to a National Fostering Agency fostering household in May 2020; an in-depth introduction period was arranged, which included the foster family, M, and professionals. However, as the process started in the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic the introduction visits had to start virtually and increase to visits to the residential home and in the community. The introduction period was well planned and highly successful, and M appeared to enjoy the time he spent with the foster family. M eventually moved in with his new foster family at the end of July 2020. There was an intensive level of support provided; including an NFA support worker, tailored short breaks service, additional training, therapeutic intervention via a psychologist and increased visiting frequency from the Supervising Social Worker to promote stability and support for the whole family.

Initially M did not understand the concept of a foster family and was institutionalised to some degree by wanting to know who was going to be on shift when he arrived. He struggled to manage a full conversation but his communication skills have now developed significantly and M has been able to build positive relationships with the other members of the household, identifying them as brother and sister. M has settled quickly and now views himself as part of a family. M loves spending time singing karaoke and as the foster family enjoy singing as well this is a perfect match for M.

M continues to be a sociable character who enjoys adult interaction but requires detailed routines to ensure he feels safe and secure. M's appointments with specialist services have successfully moved to the local area to avoid the need for him to travel significant distances and services are working in partnership with the foster family to meet M's emotional and physical needs.

The foster family are so dedicated to M and caring for him in the future, they are wanting to be permanently matched long term with M and this is currently in process. The foster family are very attuned to M's complex needs and advocate for him daily to ensure M continues to thrive and succeed within their care. M's favourite saying currently is 'I know you're not staff, it's family'.

If you want to know more about The Big Fostering Partnership please contact the Registered Manager of your National Fostering Group agency details of which can be found at:

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Big Fostering Partnership Case Study



J is a 14-year-old boy from Staffordshire and moved into the care of the Local Authority due to significant concerns that he had suffered emotionally and physically when in the care of his parents. When he was in foster care J could display violence towards others such as pinching, throwing things and pushing, sometimes presented spiteful and could upset people and deliberately cause arguments. This resulted in two foster placements breaking down and, in turn, J being placed into a residential setting.

J was more settled in a residential setting, engagement in school improved, and overall, he made good progress, responding well to the structure this setting provided. The Local Authority felt J would benefit from having the experience of living in a family setting with the right support and firm boundaries in order for him to continue thrive and do well.

The Big Fostering Partnership, through its delivery partner National Fostering Group completed a family finding search, identifying a foster carer locally to J's current residential setting, allowing J to continue to attend his current school giving him consistency in an educational environment where he was progressing well. J was matched with his carer for several reasons, although she has parented five of her own children she now lived alone and was able to focus all her attention on J creating the nurture and structure he needed. She is also an experienced carer who has previously cared for a teenage boy who would not engage in education or with other professionals but would communicate with and confide in her. This carer has a calm, laid back approach and remains like this even when those around are seeming to be experiencing chaos in their lives. This approach has certainly given J the grounding and stability that he needs.

The foster carer received regular clinical consultations from a psychologist to support her to deliver the care and support that J needed as well as additional input from a Family Support Worker and the Supervising Social Worker providing wraparound support for her and J adjusting flexibly as required.

J engaged with his new carer from when he first moved in, he quickly became a firm favourite with her extended family who he met at family BBQs and other social engagements. From speaking to J it was clear that he enjoyed becoming part of this family and being included in activities. J has spoken about feeling 'at home' and enjoying living with his carer and seeing their relationship as being, 'like a mother and son'. He described feeling that he has more freedom to do 'normal things' now that he is living with her.

J has faced some challenges in exploring his identity and recent issues at school due to the ongoing court case around his permanence, but his relationship with his carer has remained positive and stable. J is building a strong bond with her and learning that even when days are not so good, his carer is there to listen, give advice and will not give up on him.



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