



Protective Care Group

Shaping lives through specialist care

Case Study

Child A entered the care system aged 2.5 years old. The child was found to have been severely abused, tortured, and starved. Due to the trauma from childhood Child A was found to have a number of complex issues including attachment disorders, PTSD, as well as having ASD. Due to the extensive abuse the child developed severe challenging behaviour issues and was passed from foster home to foster home which continued to exacerbate the child's mental health situation.

At aged 5 it was decided to put the child up for adoption. A family adopted the child but it quickly became apparent, as the child developed and matured that the complexity of the child was extreme. The LA and Adoption Services tried a number of different care packages, and each time they failed.

Over the space of a few years the child went through 14 school placements, including residential but due to the aggression of the child the parents ran out of educational options. In addition, the parents were having to deal with severe meltdowns on a daily basis, often resulting in serious injuries which at times included fractures, and multiple cuts and bruises.

This situation was ongoing for the family and despite pleading for proper help, the meltdowns and injuries continued. As the child got older

and stronger it became apparent that some life changing injuries were imminent and so the parents in desperation decided that some type of specialist care must be sought and quickly.

It was agreed that a specialist support package could be put into place involving a team of highly trained carers that were able to physically intervene when the parents were in danger, which at this point was every 32 hours. Up until this point the police were being called to the property often on a daily basis.

The care package enabled the adoption placement to succeed, ensured the child could remain within the home environment and most importantly the child was able to develop both academically and emotionally.

The team of support workers were a life line to the family. Since the team were recruited 2 years ago the child has become more stable and although still has aggressive meltdowns on occasions, the frequency has improved month on month. Early intervention in this scenario would have prevented injuries and trauma to the parents, child, and close family and would have saved the LA considerable amounts of funding going forwards.

It is proven that keeping a child or adult within a safe and trusted environment with support that is stable and consistent, contributes to improvement in all areas of mental health, challenging behaviour and emotional wellbeing.