



PETER'S STORY

THE PERSPECTIVE OF A PERSON SUPPORTED BY A NAMED SOCIAL WORKER

JULY 2018

Peter

About Peter

Peter is a 19 year old man who has autism and a learning disability. He loves trains and music, and particularly enjoys going to the local disco.

Up until recently, Peter had been living at home with his parents and his two younger siblings.

Peter found the arrival of his two younger siblings very difficult and life with them in the house has been stressful for him.

Peter attended a local special school until the age of 16, after which he refused to attend. This was followed by a year of not leaving the house at all.

He is now happy living in his own accommodation with support, he sees his family regularly and has a positive relationship with them.



Peter's drawing of a house, displayed on the wall in his home.

Life before the Named Social Worker

Over the years, Peter and his family have had lots of social workers. From the age of 4 until 10, Peter had a 'good' support worker.

When she left, Peter's family lost their consistent point of contact and felt that their social worker 'changed with the seasons'.

'Sometimes we met someone once then never saw them again'

Peter's life in his family home was stressful and as a result the police and ambulance service were involved on a regular basis.

When Peter stopped going to school, social services arranged support for him provided by a local organisation. They were able to work with Peter to build up to accessing the community again. However life in the family home remained difficult for Peter.

Having a Named Social Worker

When Peter was matched with a named social worker, his family had reached crisis point and Peter was close to being detained under the Mental Health Act. This would have probably meant being admitted to an Assessment and Treatment Unit and ending up in an out of area placement.

Peter's named social worker swiftly arranged temporary appropriate accommodation and support.

The named social worker worked closely with Peter and his family to understand what support would work best for him. This included involvement from Speech and Language therapists and the Learning Disability Nurse to ensure that Peter was fully included and understood what was happening at each stage. The Positive behaviour service and psychiatrist also supported in this process. Peter has now settled well into a new home. His package of support has been gradually reduced and he has not had any incidents that have required police involvement since moving into his new home. When asked about his home, Peter expressed that he was happy.

Peter's parents are really happy about the current situation and the positive changes in Peter's life and the impact that has had on his well being:

'I can't believe the change in him since he came here'

Parent

Peter's Journey

Life before the Named Social Worker



Peter enjoyed school when he was young.



With support put in place by the transitions team Peter began to go out again.

He found the arrival of his younger siblings very stressful.



Peter stopped attending school and didn't leave the house for a year.



Getting help from a Named Social Worker



Peter worked with his named social worker to create a package of support that works for him.



After a period of feeling unsettled in his temporary accommodation Peter moved to his own house with a support team in place.



Peter reached crisis. To prevent detention under the Mental Health Act he moved to temporary accommodation with intensive support.

Life today



Peter is accessing the community and seeing his family regularly.

As Peter becomes more settled his support is able to reduce.



Peter meets a girlfriend at a disco he now attends.

Is it better living here or in the flat (the flat was the temporary accommodation Peter lived in)?

"Here" Peter stated, emphasising his point by pointing to the floor of his house.

Experience of support from a Named Social Worker

Consistent and trusting relationships

When asked how seeing his Named Social Worker (NSW) made him feel, Peter immediately answered 'Happy' by using the symbol cards. He was also smiling.

Peter's family were initially concerned when they first started working with the NSW. They had built a relationship with their previous social worker and had had bad experiences when working with children's social care.

'We'd had like 6 million social workers when he was a child'
Parent

Peter's parents feel that they now know who to contact and that they are always able to reach someone when they need to.

'We had 100 social workers when he was a kid and we couldn't get hold of any [of them].'
Parent

How does seeing your named social worker make you feel?

'Happy'



Choice and control

Peter expresses choice and control in lots of areas of his life. For example, Peter's home is decorated with his own artwork and a selection of canvases that he has picked himself. He participates in food shopping and preparation, and engages in activities he enjoys such as going for walks and bike rides.

Peter went to stay with his parents on Christmas Eve. On Christmas Day, as soon as he had eaten his lunch, he wanted to go back to his home, and did so. This helped his parents see how happy he is in his own home:

'He tends to prefer to stay [in his own home] now'
Parent

When he has not got on with a member of staff he has informed his mum. She has then raised this with his social worker and they have worked with the care provider to resolve the issue.

Do you like going food shopping?

'Yes'
Peter also stated that he likes pie, cheese pie.



Peter expressed that going for walks and on his bike make him happy.

'Happy'



Supporting people to live the lives they want

Before the NSW started supporting Peter and his family, Peter had expressed that he wanted to move out of home. At this point, his parents were not sure that this was really what he wanted, and they also worried about him leaving home:

'We worried, you see programmes on the telly, you know the ones...'
[referring to recent TV programmes exposing abuse of people in care settings]
Parent

However, with support from the NSW, Peter has now happily settled in his own home and his parents recognise that he is very happy there.

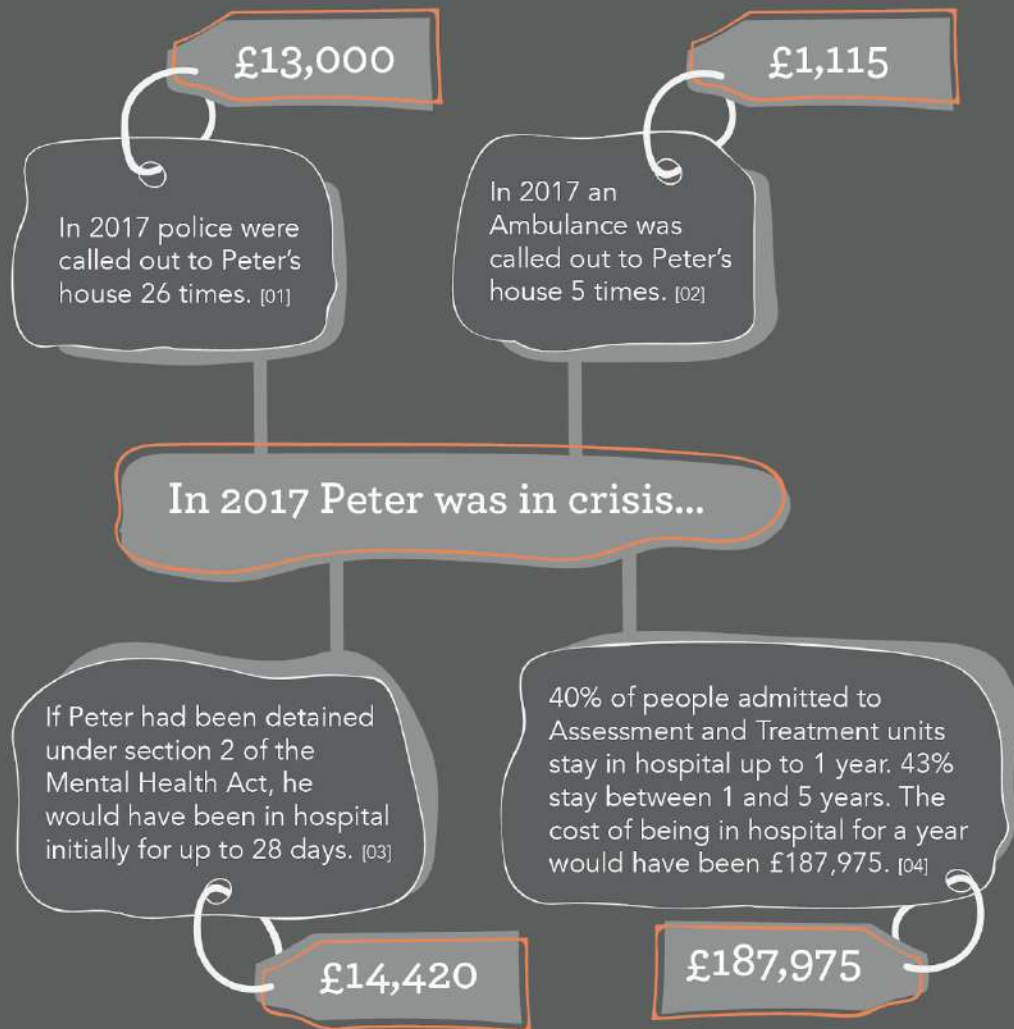
When asked about the future Peter expressed that he is happy where he is and doesn't want anything to change. He expressed that he likes his staff and refers to them with affectionate names, including 'Aunty'.

How does going to the disco make you feel?

'Good'



Cost of care



...in 2018 Peter is living the life he wants in his own home.

Peter's Current support package costs **£2910 per week, £151,320 per year.** The cost has been reducing as he has been adapting to his new home and is likely to reduce further in the future.

Cost Source:

[01] www.neweconomymanchester.com/our-work/research-evaluation-cost-benefit-analysis/cost-benefit-analysis/unit-cost-database

[02] www.neweconomymanchester.com/our-work/research-evaluation-cost-benefit-analysis/cost-benefit-analysis/unit-cost-database

[03] www.pssru.ac.uk/pub/uc/uc2017/services.pdf

[04] www.pssru.ac.uk/pub/uc/uc2017/services.pdf

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