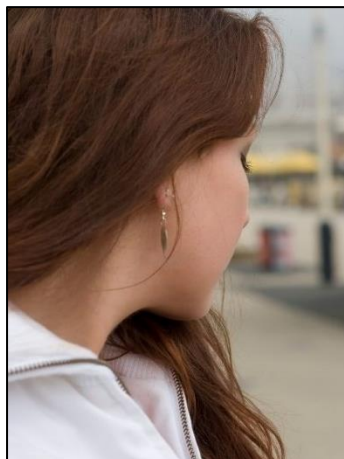


Role: Keyworker
Agency: Catch22



Background

Millie*, aged 15, was referred to Catch22 after being discovered drinking neat vodka from a water bottle in school.

Millie was drinking alcohol daily and using recreational drugs. She was also being criminally and sexually exploited.

The family home had a significant history of trauma and abuse, and Millie's mother had become unwell and was unable to care for, or safeguard, her children. Both Millie and her brother became looked after shortly after Millie's referral.

Action taken

With guidance from clinical partner, Inclusion, and a thorough psychiatric assessment, Millie was supported with an alcohol reduction plan before going into a therapeutic foster placement.

Through extensive work with her keyworker, by the time Millie was placed in care she was abstinent from alcohol. She has been supported with harm reduction and education surrounding alcohol and other substances. Millie's carers have been made aware of signs of relapse, risks, potential triggers and how they can support her to remain abstinent.

Through some Covid lottery funding, Catch22 were able to provide Millie and her brother tablets in order to access home-learning and have regular contact with their mother.

Catch22 has continued to support Millie throughout the placement and review her relapse prevention plan as she prepares to transition back to the family home. The risk of overdose, harm reduction and education has been discussed with Millie during every session with her keyworker. Millie is regularly encouraged to reflect on her understanding of how to keep herself safe from harm. A safety plan is discussed at every session with Millie, and she has been provided with a list of crisis lines and out of hours support should she need it.

To ensure that all of Millie's needs are being met and the support given is holistic and child centred, Catch22 have worked closely in partnership with other agencies involved in her case - Children's Services, education, therapeutic foster care and the Willow Team.

SAFEGUARDING ADOLESCENTS CASE STUDY: MILLIE

Any emerging safeguarding concerns and risks have been shared immediately with Millie's social worker, relevant agencies, and carers to ensure that Millie remains safe. These concerns are also escalated within Catch22 through the internal safeguarding escalation process, ensuring that the service manager, senior management and organisational safeguarding team are aware of the risks and how these are being managed.

Millie's risk assessment is regularly reviewed by her keyworker to identify any new and emerging risks. Actions from these reviews are shared, discussed and agreed with all partner agencies.

Millie's keyworker also attends all CLA (Children Looked After) reviews and professionals' meetings and provides updates on their ongoing work with Millie.

Millie's case is regularly discussed with the team Safeguarding Lead and during monthly line management Supervision. She has also been discussed during Clinical Supervision that is provided with an external supervisor.

Despite being placed out of area, due to the significant concerns about Millie having continuity of support when returning home, Catch22 have continued to support her throughout her time in foster care.

Outcome

Millie has developed a trusting, therapeutic relationship with her keyworker, enabling her to explore the reasons she was using drugs and alcohol and develop healthy coping strategies for the future.

Joint multi-agency working has formed a critical part of the work with Millie to ensure that she is safe from harm and will continue to be a priority for her as she transitions back to her home in the coming months.

**Pseudonym*