



Aaron Case study

Aaron is a 15 year old male, with many years of family history of involvement with the police and other services. He grew up with domestic abuse towards his mother in the home , which lead to frequent police call-outs and this was occurring from approx five years old. Social services were involved with the family, Aaron was on a child protection plan as a younger child, and his family had support from a social worker. Mum was referred to DA services, who offered support to her and the family.

When he was aged 13, Aaron was reported as a missing person. A family bereavement had caused upset and he started to go missing. Not long after that, Aaron started hanging around with a crowd of children some of a similar age and young adults, who were offending, carrying out robberies with knives and weapons. One of these friends had just been released from prison, and it was not long before Aaron got drawn in and started to also commit robberies. There was some concern expressed at that time about him being exploited by this group, and a CERAF was completed and assessed as medium risk.

Aaron's attendance at school dropped off and his name was soon connected to a series of robberies and assaults in his local area. These were committed late at night/early hours of the morning. He would pick on members of the public, threaten them with a knife and steal their property, usually their mobile phone, and designer clothes.

Aaron was arrested for these offences, bailed by the court and given an electronic tag on his ankle to remain indoors between certain times. His recent offending brought him into the focus of the local police violent crime officers (VCT), who approached him, and see what they could do to reduce his risk of further offending. The officers started by liaising with his social worker, who knew Aaron well and had a good rapport with him. The social worker had successfully helped Aaron to move to his nan's house two miles away, which was the start to get him away from the influence of his then friends. His nan was supportive of him, and even though he had no bedroom, and was sleeping on her sofa, he quickly found this gave him space to be away from what he was doing, away from the crowd, and space to make some better decisions for himself.

Aaron's interactions with police had been mainly negative experiences over many years, and he did not welcome the attention of the violent crime police officer. He told his social worker he was scared he was going to get arrested again. Close working between the police officer and the social worker over many months allowed them to keep building trust with Aaron and eventually he agreed to a meeting, which took place at his nan's house.

Aaron said he had got involved in the wrong crowd, and then couldn't stop. The help from his social worker, together with the support of his nan had allowed him to get away. He no longer hangs around with this group. This did not come without its challenges, as the group he was involved with sent him threats. What saved him in this case, was that they did not find out where his nan lived, and he managed to create some distance. He is now at college, in his first year of a construction course. His study takes three days a week, and he works three days a week with a trades person. On

his only day off, he is too tired to go out and cause trouble. Aaron has said he was so glad to be away from his home environment, and was proud he was turning his life around. He is now serving a community sentence for the crimes he committed and is being successfully managed by Youth Offending Staff and there has been no new offending.

-Not hanging around with the other group of friends came with the occasional threat from one of them too as they were not happy with Aaron no longer doing what they wanted. In this case it was important that the group of friends didn't know where Aaron and his nan lived. Aaron has kept himself out of trouble meaning they have not been able to find out. They have now become bored and have left Aaron alone now.

Questions:

What is your role within this case?

What opportunities might you have to work with this young person and how?

How would you work with other agencies to support this young person?

To consider your role more specifically we suggest you consider answering the questions in the what is my role section of the toolkit (INCLUDE LINK)