



Jackson case study

Jackson was 13 years old when he became involved with the Youth Justice Service after he had threatened his mum with a knife from the kitchen, he had lashed out during an argument after he arrived home late. This incident was very frightening, and mum and the younger sibling had to flee the house in fear. Mum had tried to address his behaviour before and had been supported by a Family Engagement officer, who helped her with parenting techniques to try and help manage Jackson's behaviour, and improve her confidence in parenting. Jackson had shown her aggression previously, but never to this extent. At a similar time, Jackson got into trouble at school, after he saw some friends out of a classroom window with a group, he ran out of class, and attacked the group of three boys, injuring them. This caused him to be permanently excluded from school. Jackson also got involved in a gang and mum was worried about him getting caught up in this further, along with other concerns she had about his behaviour, namely thefts, going missing and anti-social behaviour.

Mum had thrown Jackson out of the house after these incidents and things had totally broken down at home. However, there was undeniable love for one another, Jackson said he longed to be at home with his family and his mum wanted him home but was scared of him returning home due to the escalation of his behaviour towards her— this meant that over a period of time, any return would need to be planned and gradual.

Jackson moved into a relative of mum's boyfriend for a very short time, and then to an aunt's house.

The Youth Justice Service came together as a team, working well with one another. Work to support Jackson included visits, re-integrating Jackson back to education after a settled period at a Pupil Referral Unit. Jackson was doing well at the Pupil Referral Unit, he was out of his local area temporarily, away from the peer group he had got in with. Youth Justice Service realised that Jackson was experiencing issues with his learning and education, and made a referral to CAMHS within the Youth Justice Service team. Close liaison with the CAMHS worker in Youth Justice Service meant that Jackson was offered a lot of mental health support and options. This work led to a diagnosis of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), which had not been previously picked up, and this led to an education health care plan (EHCP) which was most definitely needed so that he could attend the right education provision for him.

Jackson attended all of his meetings with professionals and engaged really well with a voluntary sports organisation, where he was given 1-2-1 support, Jackson loves sports and this was a great source of diversionary activity for him, keeping him busy and offering him new sporting opportunities which he loved.

Jackson did really well. Work to support mum included home visits, keeping mum updated on Jackson's progress, and eventually help to re-integrate him back to the family home. He was with his caseworker in Youth Justice Service for a total of 11 months, building a good rapport with her. He is no longer offending, he is back living with his mum and this is going well – something in which his mum has told me she feels would never have been possible had it not been for the support from professionals involved at the time.

As a caseworker, this showed me how working together in a multi-agency approach can really help and support positive change for young people and their families.

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)