



Case Study; Supporting Steve from a Child to an Adult



Steve* had a car accident at the age of 10, which resulted in a brain injury. Advantage Healthcare supported him following his accident with a package of care before and after school and also at weekends at his home in Bedfordshire.

Steve did not have an awareness of consequences or road safety, so as part of his care package we worked area we worked extensively on this area and also supported and enabled Steve to plan and use public transport. Steve also found it difficult to cope with things that were not planned for, so Advantage produced a weekly planner on a whiteboard, with scheduled time in for activities that he could choose the evening before.

This outcome based care package, changed and evolved as Steve got older, supporting him in his transition to independence. At 18 he decided, in conjunction with his parents and Case Manager, that he wished to attend a specialist, residential college in the West Midlands . Initially Steve did not have any extra care planned for his time at college, but it became clear very quickly that he did need that extra support. Steve's behaviour started to deteriorate and he would go off campus to the pub and stay there all day, buying strangers drinks so they would chat to him and making himself vulnerable by giving them personal and financial information about himself.

Steve, his Case Manager and family decided he would benefit from renting a flat near the college and having one to one support. The most cost effective way of providing the care was outside of college hours and for the Support Worker to sleep in, as Steve did not require anyone to be awake during the night. This would then be reduced to key periods of time in the evening and morning, with no-one overnight in a gradual and constructive way.

As the care was provided by another branch of Advantage Healthcare, Steve's key worker from his previous care package spent 2 weeks in the West Midlands handing over to the new team of workers and we provided additional training workshops on Supporting Relationships and Sexuality, as getting a girlfriend was a big focus in Steve's life at the time.

Steve has done well in college and has now been supported by his Case Manager to buy a property closer to his family, which is currently being adapted and he will continue to receive care and support from Advantage Healthcare. He has a girlfriend, who he enjoys spending time with, talks and texts every day.

**Service users name has been changed for data protection.*