

Robs Story

Rob was brought to Axis by his mum and a police officer. His mum explained that there had been a breakdown of relationship between her and Rob and that due to this she could no longer have Rob staying at home. She explained that their relationship was violent, that Rob kept running away and that the police had been called to keep her safe. It was explained to them both that we would have to make a referral to children's services as Rob was 15 years old.

Rob's mum and the police officer left, and Rob completed the Axis assessment forms despite not being sure he wanted to accept the support.

Rob was able to answer all the questions we asked him. He said he occasionally smoked weed but never paid for it. He agreed that things hadn't been good between him and his mum for a while and he understood why she had made the decision to kick him out although it had suddenly become real that he was homeless.

Rob struggled with anger, depression and self-harm. We offered him our counsellor to talk to, to help with some of these issues. His mum called in a little later in the day to collect her house keys from Rob which made things hit home that he is was in a very difficult situation.

We spoke about mediation with Nightstop to help rebuild the relationship between him and mum which Rob believed would be a positive thing to do so we completed the forms for this.

We then discussed the cause for concern to children's services. Rob understood why this needed to be done. We went through the forms with Rob, so he was aware of all the information that was being put into it. He agreed everything was correct and accurate, so these were then sent across.

We called children's social services shortly after this to make sure it had been received which it had, and we let them know that we were closing at 5pm so they knew someone would need to contact Rob before we finished.

After a while a social worker contacted us and explained that she had spoken with Rob's mum who was adamant she was not able to have him home and so they are working on finding somewhere for Rob to stay. She asked what time we are open till and we said 5pm. She said someone would be back in contact before then.

While we were waiting for them to get back to us, we went to get Rob a phone as he hadn't got one and professionals were going to need to get in contact with him over the next few days.

We then received a call from a different social worker. She asked if Rob was still with us and whether she could talk to him. They discussed possible places for Rob to stay for the evening and it was arranged that he would go to a friend's for the night, then a social worker would go to meet him there the following day. We put all emergency numbers in Rob's phone and made sure all professionals had his number.

A couple of days later, we hadn't heard from Rob and he hadn't shown up for his 1st Mediation session with Nightstop so we contacted the social worker to see what had happened to Rob the previous night.

The social worker told us that they met with him as arranged at his friend's house and was told to keep his phone on while they organised a place for him to move too. She explained they then tried to contact Rob throughout the day but his phone was turned off. At 11:30pm the previous night Rob then called the police and said that social services hadn't contacted him and he had nowhere to go. The police had then contacted the emergency duty team and got him to temp accommodation for the evening.

We were told that they are working on his situation and were hoping to move him into a foster home later that day which would be his permanent placement.

We explained that we were looking at closing with Rob as he was now under the care of social services but that he can still see the councillor we have referred him too and have his mediation sessions with Nightstop. The social worker said she would be in contact with us to let us know what was going on with him and where he was going.

A couple of days later we contacted Rob to see how he was getting on and if he had a placement. Rob said he was in Worcestershire with a lovely couple.

He explained he was in Kidderminster on the Friday of that week and asked if he could have an appointment. We offered an appointment at 11am. We spoke with his carer who said this shouldn't be a problem. He asked if we could email him with our number, address and the time for Friday so that they were aware of where they were bringing him. We said this was no problem and this email was sent.

Rob came in that week with his foster carer. We sat and had a discussion about how he was feeling. He wasn't overly sure how he was feeling - anxious, happy - a mix of emotions. He had settled in with his foster family well and it looked like he was staying with them in Worcester - definitely until he had done his GCSE's but may be longer term.

We discussed school, made sure the councillor had been in touch and that is mediation sessions were in place. We were given details of Rob's new social worker if this was needed and made sure he was ok with everything that had happened.

Rob told us that his mum was coming to see him. He felt anxious about this as it was the 1st time he had seen her since that day she kicked him out but he wanted to see her.

We let Rob know that we were going to exit with him and explained why we were doing it. He understood and said it was fine. We told him he was still able to come and use the facilities - the youth cafe - the counsellor and mediation - we just wouldn't be having meetings with him.

We completed all the paper-work and closed with Rob. He met with him mum at Axis which was a wonderful reunion. They were both very relaxed with each other and in a much better place than when we had seen them the previous week.