

Tom

Tom self-referred to AXIS at the end of March 2017, seeking help primarily with housing as he was living in temporary accommodation in a local B&B, used by local services. Tom was 17 when we started working with him so after being asked to leave by his mom, due to a relationship breakdown, it was necessary for social services to become involved and carry out a 'cause for concern' assessment; due to Tom being under the age of 18. He was also being supported by the pathway worker, who would meet him in a room at Kidderminster Youth House, the same building as AXIS, which meant we were able to stay in contact and updated on his situation.

Following Toms meeting with social services and the pathway worker, it was decided that the B&B he was staying in was not an appropriate place for him to be staying due to his young age. A referral to the crash pad at St Basil's was completed and an assessment carried out, however this was not a possibility until a decision had been made by the panel and a space became available.

Housing was just one area that Tom needed and wanted support with, he was also in need of support financially, signing up to a doctors surgery and getting into some kind of employment or education. On introduction with Tom, we were informed that he was involved with the Police and there was an ongoing case in which he was on bail and had to attend regular probation meetings.

We came across a hurdle when trying to register with the doctors and apply for a provisional license as Tom didn't have any ID as this was all at his mom's address. We managed to overcome this by getting involved and collected the ID ourselves to help him move forward. Unfortunately, his birth certificate had been lost and therefore, in order to move forward with this, we applied and paid for a copy of Toms birth certificate. This enabled him to have a suitable form of ID to use.

Tom had a few problems when applying for his provisional license but we managed to contact DVLA and move him forward with this by providing supporting letters and the evidence needed. Tom would find himself getting frustrated while on the phone with other agencies and professionals and found it easier to discuss with us to make sure he understood what was being said and what needed doing to get things sorted.

The more we worked with Tom, the more we recognised that he was slowly growing in confidence and motivation to better himself and his life choices. Throughout the time we worked with him, he didn't have any other contact with the police, other than the ongoing case and this was something that Tom was very proud of.



The 'rebellious' and 'cheeky' side of him started to become a part of his character and something that we could work with, because it was done alongside his hard work and dedication with our support and both ourselves and Tom himself could both see progress being made.

We were able to support him with his income and ensure that he was able to budget and spend his finances wisely.

Tom had a particular interest in Football and had always considered refereeing for local teams. With our support and encouragement Tom has secured a place on a refereeing course in July, which he is looking forward to.

He was offered a room in the local crash pad, which he gratefully accepted. We were able to offer him assistance in completing the assessment for this position and to support him with the moving in process alongside St Basils. Due to him being placed in the crash pad; it meant that he began receiving support from a support worker at St Basil's. This meant that we needed to withdraw our support but went about this sensitively.

We found that Tom was quite reluctant for our support to end so we made sure to support the handover to St Basil's and remind him that he is welcome to return to AXIS at any point but we also explained that we cannot duplicate the service he is being offered. He understood this and although we still saw him a few times, he would only pop in to tell us of the positives things; like being accepted into college on an apprenticeship course.

The work carried out with Tom proved to be extremely positive; He started with us back at the end of March and in the following 2 months we had seen a vast improvement in terms of his engagement, attitude and general enthusiasm and outlook on things in his life. Although Tom is no longer living with his mom, the relationship that a couple of months ago was looking doubtful; is now a lot better and he is able to spend time and speak with his mom more amicably. He has managed to secure a room in the main Foyer at St Basils, rather than in the crash pad, which allows him to be there for a maximum of 2 years in which time he will be supported with an aim of moving him forward independently.