

T and S story September 2023



Service name: Youth Justice Service Nursing team

Main purpose of service: Our specialist nurses work with young people aged between 10 and 18 who are already involved with either the Kirklees or the Calderdale Youth Justice Service.

The aim of the nursing service is to promote and support health and wellbeing and contribute to the prevention of youth crime in Calderdale and Kirklees. Our work includes assessment of the physical, mental and social needs of young people. We provide them and their families and carers with health education and information. We work collaboratively with colleagues within and outside the criminal justice service and may have an advocacy role on behalf of the young person. We often support young people by making referrals to other services.

About the situation:

S is 14 years old and enjoys mountain biking and gaming. S and his Mum T were supported by Louise, one of the nurses who works for the Youth Justice Service nursing team. T takes up their story, **“The police were involved, it took about 5 months for them to be in touch with us. After a formal interview, S was referred by them to the Youth Justice Team who did a lot of work with us and him.”** She continues, **“We were dealing with school a lot. S wasn’t focusing at school and was getting lots of behaviour points.”** T feels that school was supportive but, **“His behaviour was getting worse.”**

Support:

T explains that she had done an online course on ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) and autism, and started to wonder if either of these diagnoses applied to her son. **“The Youth Justice Service asked Louise to contact us when I voiced my concerns about his behaviour and my worries about ADHD and autism.”** Louise visited S during the school holidays and T feels Louise made the effort to really understand her son. **“They’ve all been supportive. Louise is absolutely lovely. She talked with S and spent a long time to get to know him. She was in touch with the Psychiatric team and they think we don’t need to go further.”** T is happy with the decision that her son doesn’t need an assessment for ADHD or autism. She feels their concerns were respected and listened to. **“I trust that Louise put his case forward in a thorough way.”**

Moving forwards:

The Youth Justice Team have completed restorative work with S. This offers an opportunity for individuals to reflect and take responsibility for their behaviour and actions. T feels that Louise spending one to one time with S has really helped him. **“He’s doing better at school. Things have moved forward. It’s made such a difference. He’s doing so much better at school. He’s currently got the most achievement points. I’m very proud of him.”**

Reassuring:

T considers that despite going through a very difficult time, S and the family can now feel positive. **“Something good came out of something awful, a mistake.”** Louise has told her she can get back in touch if she needs to. **“She told me ‘Don’t ever feel alone’. It’s a nice feeling to know there is someone I can go to.”**