

Talia's story December 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:

Talia is now 19 years old and was referred to the Youth Justice Nursing team when she was 16. She spoke with Jo from Locala's Engagement Team and explained how Louise, one of the nurses supported her. **"There was lots of stuff going on with court. I was mentally struggling. Louise was concerned about me. I was depressed. She's always tried to help me."** Talia explains further – **"I'd had a termination. Louise took me to all my appointments. She went to help my confidence and to make sure I'd go! She made sure I was on the right contraception. I felt like Louise was my family. She'd make me a cup of tea when I had an appointment with her. At first, I met her at her office. I couldn't go out on my own. She helped me with anxiety. Then, when I felt better, we had meetings at a café."**

Support: Talia continues, **"Louise supported me and understood I didn't always want to talk about the past. I felt that others forced me to talk about the past."** What would Talia say to anyone else who was referred to Louise? **"She will help you A LOT! She's 100% the best person to help you."**

Talia [name changed for privacy] spoke with Joanne Vaughan from Locala's Engagement Team on 24.11.23 and gives her full consent for the story to be shared with Locala colleagues and Locala website.