

Pen Picture

MM (K) is 16 years old male child, who has faced many challenges in his young life. He is a kind and caring young boy who is easy in the company of both other children and adults. He has experienced a lot of turbulence in his life which has made him extremely vulnerable in the past.

MM has now changed his name by Deed Poll as he was previously known as K.

MM would want anyone reading this to see the good in him and his care for others. He would want you to know that he has a good heart and means well. He is ambitious and feels he has come through his traumatic experiences. He doesn't shy away from the truth of his past life and the issues that befell him. But above all MM would want you to know that he is a different boy to the one that came into care. He is thankful for the support he has had from professionals and his mentors in particular as he feels this has helped him to turn a major corner. For the first time in a long time he is looking forward to the future with renewed hope and a sense of aspiration and passion.

MM is of average height and built. He takes pride in his personal hygiene and appearance. He likes wearing designer clothing. He is an intelligent, likable, sociable, friendly and caring young person

MM wants you to see him as the vulnerable boy that he is and understand his journey. He is looking for support, nurturing and parenting from a foster carer or carers in a fostering family that can support him in this next phase of his life.

How does the child interact with family, professionals and peers?

MM shares a good relationship with his parents and younger sister. He has flexible contact with his mother, step-father and siblings. The residential unit is promoting and facilitation contact at the present time.

He has his mother, Mr M and his young sibling, K as family.

He is currently having telephone contact with his mother, K and Mr M.

MM used to have a strained relationship with his mother and Mr M but this has been improving.

MM engages well with staff in his current placement. Staff have reported that they are are pleased with the progress MM making in placement and wishes to continue to support him moving in South London area.

Describe the child's positive behaviour?

He is self-driven and motivated. He presents as a bright young person who knows his own mind and is a pleasure to have around. He gets along with everyone and he has a positive and good sense of humour and is helpful to staff, with respect for example to shopping and cleaning and suchlike. MM is an avid football player and is really keen to pursue this as an interest. He also is

physically active and enjoys attending the gym and enjoys music.

Does the child have any fears, phobias or challenging behaviours? If so what strategies are used to manage these?

What are the child's identity needs?

MM has a clear understanding of his cultural heritage and identity.

He recently started to explore the Muslim religion and learning about Islam faith and expressed his wish to practice and possibly convert into the faith sometime in future. He is getting more connected to Islam and finding comfort and soothe when he pray, so he is learning about Islam and professionals and supporting him to safely promote his religious faith, especially giving him the right copy of Quran (Holy Book) and connecting with right religious priest/Imam in order to avoid exploitation.

He has flexible contact with family which enables to meet his cultural and identity needs.

MM would benefit from therapy and life story work intervention to further explore his past issues and relationship and identity when he is ready to do so.

MM is following Islam faith and is now only taking halal products.

There are no known allergies in respect of MM.

Reason why a placement is required?

MM had resided at AH a residential unit in Staffordshire since February 2020 and he has made remarkable progress. He needs a placement able to replicate similar parenting strategies and nurturing support to continue to meet his holistic needs. He is keen to move to South London area.

MM will require structure within his life and to be part of something positive such as a foster placement. MM is now keen to move to a foster home for a year or two in order to give him a semblance of family life, help him feel held and contained, allow for a watching brief and give him support and structure as required. It is however most important that the foster placement is an appropriate one for him, whereby there is cultural and experiential concordance with his own life to date. MM needs to be in an environment in which he can be encouraged, reminded of how well he is doing, have suitable and achievable goals set for him and in which he is trusted, known and understood, along with a watching brief to ensure he does keep on the 'right path.'

What is working well for the child?

MM engages well with support offered to him and wants to be supported in helping him to make positive decisions.

MM enjoys contact with his family.

MM is reportedly physically healthy. He is eating and sleeping well which is a positive change as it demonstrates that he is able to rest his mind and rest his body. He had his health assessment on the 24.10.2019 and no issues were identified

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With respect to specific resources, he will benefit from ongoing mentoring, interest in what he is doing at college and opportunities to build a positive and structured leisure life.

What are we worried about?

MM was further referred to Children Services in June 2019 following a missing episode, concerns were raised during the missing interview that he was potentially being exploited however following the completion of C & F assessment case was closed.

There continue to be multiple missing episodes: Thames Valley Police made further referral following the missing episode on 13th September 2019. MM was reported missing for 6 days however his mother did not report him as missing for few days and was reported missing by his mother to Thames Valley Police only on 15th September 2019. MM was found and arrested in Kent with 62 wraps of substances on his person along with knife. MM also had further substances in a safe and is now thought to be in £3000 worth of debt. It appears that he has been exploited into doing this and been groomed for some time. He provided details of the drug dealers that had groomed by him to the police and they raided a home in Kent. MM has said that these associates have made threats to kill him and is in fear of his life. He has also alleged to the social worker that his parents have physically chastised during the summer holidays.

MM's parents and Children Services made the decision that he would be safer being accommodated in Local Authority care and his younger siblings have remained in the care of parents in High Wycombe area.