



Herefordshire SENDIASS: Supporting a young person to understand the EHCP process which led to a collage placement

The issue

Student was 19 years old and had been issued with an EHCP whilst studying for A Levels. The student wanted to go on to higher education and wanted to be a dance therapist working with children but hadn't achieved the qualifications needed for this. Student was unclear of next steps to achieve this and wanted guidance around choice advice and requested support to understand the EHCP process.

The story and support provided by IASS

Student shared she was unsure how to complete the paperwork before her annual review so had two meetings (via Teams) with SENDIASS Young Person Adviser (YPA) to explain the EHCP process and to go through the annual review paperwork in preparation for the meeting. During these sessions SENDIASS supported the student by using *SENDIASS YP meetings checklist* and to prepare any questions or concerns she wanted to share.

Student was sent annual review paperwork from college before the meeting and was upset by the content as felt some of the comments were inaccurate and unfair. SENDIASS YPA went through each issue and supported the student to put a response together with steps of what to do with the feedback once complete. The student and YPA used *SENDIASS "Young Person Contribution Form"* to gather her views for the annual review meeting.

SENDIASS YPA attended the annual review meeting with the student who initially wasn't going to attend but did so due to the encouragement of the YPA. The student gave consent for the YPA to contact all those attending to explain she was feeling extremely anxious about the meeting. With help from YPA the student was able to raise some concerns from her experience at college and shared her views and wishes for the coming year.

Following this meeting the student had a session with YPA to explore what options were available and what pathways are suited to those wanting to follow a specific career and go on to higher education.

Student felt the best route was to attend a sixth form college and study A Levels. On application she was turned down and informed that she would not be able to study at the college due to her age.

SENDIASS YPA was able to get in contact with the college and request further information on this decision as the student has an EHCP, therefore, college has a duty to offer a place unless they feel they can't meet her needs. The assistant principle got in contact with SENDIASS directly to explain that on this occasion they would offer a place, although they do have concerns around the student being older than the usual cohort of students. YPA was able to explain this to the student who made the decision to accept a place following on from her interview.

The difference made

Student feels more confident knowing what is involved in the EHCP process including understanding her role in an annual review. Student was given resources which she can use to support her in meeting environments

moving forwards. SENDIASS successfully challenged the further education provider when the student was given incorrect information in relation to being offered a place on a course there and subsequently the student was offered a place on a course she really wanted to do. Student shared she felt really supported throughout and if it wasn't for SENDIASS would not have known where to turn, She added "thank you so much again for everything. You're amazing!".

Contact details

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