



Northamptonshire SENDIASS: Supporting a young person at college with their annual review

SENDIASS is a well-established service and managed by a full-time Service Manager, two Officers and 7 Caseworkers (4 FT and 3 P/T term-time only). The Service also has a F/T administrator. The Service offers a full range of services to CYP and their families in Northamptonshire.

Due to Local Government re-organisation within Northamptonshire the Service is currently hosted in North Northants Council, sitting within Commissioning and Partnerships. The Service continues to support families across the County including those in West Northants Council. This situation will be reviewed and it may be that in future the Service will be split with a Service in each Council.

The issue

YP X had an EHCP and was due to start college in September 2020. YP X had an ASD diagnosis, experiencing difficulties with Social and Emotional issues and high anxiety. YP X had previously been at an independent school with small (less than 8) classes.

YP X arrived at college in September but things were not as he had expected and had been led to believe. He had been told that classes would be no more than 10 and he would have 1-1 support to help him. He had a few transition days prior to September but a full transition programme as promised was not completed due to COVID restrictions. On his first day YP X was met with a class of 25 and no 1-1 support and so he spent most of that first day out of the classroom and then refused to return.

The support provided by IASS

Parent contacted the service to ask for support. We supported the parent in requesting a meeting with the college to discuss. The Service met with parent before the meeting to ensure that there was clarity about the purpose of the meeting and what parent and YP X wanted to achieve.

During this meeting it was discussed about levels of support needed for YP X that was not within the plan. IASS supported YP X and Mum to put their points across. YP X explained that the numbers in the class had alarmed him and he felt frightened. IT was not what he had expected or had been promised. Mum felt that the impact of COVID on YP X mental health and the lack of a full transition programme being delivered meant that the plan didn't truly reflect his current needs. Mum also had some updated advices that she felt were needed to be included in the plan.

We discussed and it was agreed that an early Annual Review would be called. The college was to arrange.

The first Review did not take place as the college failed to send out the appropriate paperwork out in time and the IAS Service liaised with the college to ensure that they understood the annual review procedures so that a 2nd review meeting was arranged.

The IAS Service CYP worker gained the views of YP X to be included in the review and supported YP X to ensure that they could participate fully in the process.

The Review took place with both YP X and parent being supported to participate in the process by the IAS Service caseworker. In light of the number of differences and the age of some of the advices used in the plan the LA agreed to do a reassessment of need and the plan.

The difference made

As a result of the reassessment a new plan has been issued that both the YP and parent feel more accurately reflects the needs. A new placement that can truly support the YPs needs as outlined in the plan is now being sought.

The YP is happy that he now has a plan that he feels his reflects him, his needs and how he is best supported. He is now actively seeking a new placement so that he can restart his college course and continue his education.

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