Case Study: Effective Partnership Working in Stockport

This case study illustrates how partnership working between Independent Support, Stockport Local Authority’s Special Educational Needs (SEN) Team and Stockport for Young People Services provides support to a young person which is flexible and addresses their likely future needs.

EDGE Inclusion Partners has been working closely with Stockport Local Authority’s SEN team. They have provided us with a large number of referrals via their opt out policy, whereby, the local authority contact the family to let them know that the child or young person’s Statement of SEN will be changing to an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan. In this letter they let the parents/carers/young people know that EDGE Inclusion Partners will be contacting them to arrange an appointment to assist them through the transfer review process and enclose one of our information leaflets. They inform the families that if they would prefer not to be contacted by EDGE Inclusion Partners they can have their contact information removed from the list which is passed to us. This must be done in a two week window after which the local authority pass on the contact details to us so we can support the family.

This arrangement has worked extremely well and has proved most helpful in reaching vulnerable families who would not normally seek out help. Head teachers have told us that these families are coming into the review meetings well informed and more engaged than they have been in the past.

Danny’s story

As well as our close working relationship with Stockport Local Authority, we have worked very closely with Stockport for Young People Services, whose Youth Support Workers (based in local high schools) are helping us to support families, children and young people. This has proved very valuable, particularly in more complex cases.

I am currently working with a year 11 pupil, Danny, and his family. Danny has complex health needs and has a degenerative disease that, at the moment, is not making too much difference to his mobility but in a year or two’s time will make it very difficult for him to walk and write, or even type. Danny’s family do not like to look too far into the future as they are anxious about how he will be. The transfer review has offered an opportunity to build in a plan for the immediate future and specify the support that Danny will need during his college life.

The Youth Support Worker is working with Danny on his plan and has sought my advice on how best to set out his future needs. I have advised her to focus on section A where Danny and/or his parents could address this issue. The Youth Support Worker has built up a relationship with Danny over the years, seeing him at review meetings and giving careers advice. She was well placed to talk to Danny at school about his future mobility issues. Danny has added his hopes and aspirations for a future where he can get more qualifications, still attend college or further training in a wheelchair, with perhaps some voice recognition software to help him communicate.
Danny is excellent with computers and had already looked at the software available. The close working relationship that EDGE Inclusion Partners has with the local authority and the Youth Social Worker has really benefitted Danny. It has helped to plan ahead for the support he may need in the near future to meet his wishes and aspirations.