

13) Case Study: Empowering

This case study written by a parent sets out the difference the IS made to her son's life and how by putting his ideas and hopes for the future down on paper, made it seem as if there was a real chance and belief that it could actually happen

Jonjo's Story

Jonjo is 14 years old and has faced some major changes over this year, maybe hormones kicking in didn't help either but the more he struggled at school, the less they knew how to deal with him. It was a major fight to get them to recognise that something was even wrong with him but over time and after many meetings, things slowly began to click into place and some different approaches were tried to help Jonjo feel more settled. He never felt settled though and that was the problem.

I did my best with what I already had in place and we carried on going through all the different tests Jonjo needed to have which I had to repeatedly ask for. Eventually though I knew I needed help and got in touch with the IS service (via IASS) as I wanted to know about the EHCP process as I realised I was moving closer towards that stage with Jonjo.

I met with the IS who was very approachable. I found that she could easily relate to my family's issues. I really admired her for wanting to give back her knowledge of the system in ways to help others going through the same issues. It was lovely to have someone to listen to me and Jonjo and it felt like she could empathise and really understand. I really admired her kindness and caring approach.

As a result of this meeting we have been able to put together Jonjo's One Page Profile and the "About Me" section of the EHCP. We were able to talk about some of Jonjo's aspirations for his plan. Jonjo loves Air Cadets and would like to join the RAF when he leaves school and learn engineering. These tie in with his aspiration to go abroad and visit other countries. Jonjo also wants to learn to drive and live independently in the future. These are all such positive aspirations, and having someone independent to help us get these on to paper and importantly to become part of Jonjo's plan, really was instrumental for us. Jonjo's One Page Profile details him perfectly and will be such a useful document for him moving forward.

IS has helped our family move forward with positivity, through their knowledge and understanding of the processes we have had to face, and still have to face. It's not an easy process for any family experiencing difficulty, and having their support was invaluable. We are now just waiting for the outcome of the EHCP. I believe that without the help from the IS with this process, we wouldn't be at this stage.

Thank you so much for everything you have done for our family we will never forget it.