

2) Case Study: Empowering

This case study demonstrates how the IS successfully worked to boost the confidence of parents with an EHCP for one child and also promoted positive change for other family members too.

Keith's Story

Keith's dad asked for help with his son Keith's transfer to an EHCP. Dad was really worried as he felt that he knew nothing about the new process; would somehow mess it up; and fail to get the support Keith needed. Things were complicated at home, with a blended family: 5 children in total, 2 of Keith's younger step-siblings were out of school and 2 had additional needs. This family had their hands full.

Keith had been supported in a fantastic Special Support Centre (SSC) at a mainstream school, and was now in year 11 and looking to move to college and start his journey to becoming more independent.

Keith has talent and a really clear interest in art, make up and special effects. He hopes to pursue a career in these areas but requires support to enable him to successfully transfer from the security and familiarity of school, to a new college in a different town. Keith was very proud to share some of his artwork with the IS and tell her how he had recently been responsible for doing the make up for the school show.

The IS worked with dad, Keith and staff at the SSC to complete a really comprehensive parental booklet, which set out just how able Keith was in art and how passionate he was about it, together with setting out the specific areas Keith would need support in, once he started at college. Potential outcomes were worked on together to ensure that Keith would be able to achieve his goals and get the independence skills necessary so that he could strike out on his own when he felt ready – Keith's plan was for this to happen when he turned 18.

Following a productive and positive EHCP transfer meeting at the school, the Planning Co-ordinator confirmed she had received a lot of good quality information from the family and SSC staff. She was able to build a comprehensive EHCP which, following some discussion, was agreed within a short period of time.

During the time that Keith's Statement was being transferred to an EHCP, the IS also supported dad to apply for an EHCP assessment for Keith's sister Evie, aged 7 who had never been to school. This was initially refused but was overturned following an appeal. Dad and his partner are now working with the IS to gather together all the information necessary to get an EHCP for Nathan and to secure him an appropriate school place.

Another of Keith's step-siblings, Fiona, is about to enter Year 6 and so far has been well supported by her mainstream school. Following discussion with the IS, dad and his partner now intend to request an EHCP for her too, and start a dialogue with the school they have identified as being the most appropriate place for her for Year 7. Meanwhile the IS is looking at what Siblings group might be available for Keith's other siblings.

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The family feel like they are on the path to getting each of their children's needs met, after a period where any other support had been lacking. In dad's words – "Thank you so much for all your [IS] help and support...I don't think we would of got anywhere without it."