

Case study 5:

Emergency fostering placements service for 28 days

Solution 28 is a scheme that offers a 28-day emergency placement to young people who are waiting for suitable longer-term care options.



Solution 28

Solution 28 is a flexible resource which has been designed to allow Local Authorities the opportunity to provide the right placement at the right time for looked after children and young people. The service has been designed to:

- Prevent wrong placements.
- Provide extra support to Foster Carers.
- Prevent placement breakdowns.
- Provide emergency support during a sudden family crisis.
- Be used as a bridging placement between services.

Five Rivers Child Care provides specially trained and supported foster carers, who are available specifically for this service. Foster Carers have access to a Five Rivers clinician who can provide additional support, as well as receiving four hours of dedicated support time from a Support Worker. Additional support is given by specialist senior social workers, who are available 24/7 to ensure that both the child, and the Foster Carers are provided with the support they need.

Foster Carers also received planned breaks from the service to recuperate and recharge, and benefit from training in trauma-informed practice.

The initial agreement with the Local Authority has been extended for a third year and is due to be expanded.

Case study

RG came to the placement after being removed from home due to poor parenting, neglect, domestic abuse, and lack of boundaries. Amidst this chaos, the young person had managed to maintain his school placement, however, he was very close to permanent exclusion.

He came into placement with few clothes and possessions, and very little historical information.

The care plan stated that a suitable long-term placement would be sought to meet his individual needs in the longer term, as a return to family was not an option. There were no suitable matches at the time of him moving from home, so a Solution 28 placement was provided by Five Rivers Child Care. The carer, with the support of the Team Around the Child, introduced consistency into daily life as soon as possible.

The carer started to build relationships that were important to the young person, such as promoting regular contact and having positive dialogue with the parents. The carer naturally learned more about the young person, and developed good communication with the school. This reinforced trust for the carer and promoted positive interaction. RG vastly improved his school attendance and behaviour.

The carer provided opportunities for extracurricular activities after school and in the school holidays with the support of a Fostering Support Worker. The carer provided a structure to their days that included learning, exercise and personal interaction.

As a result of the Solution 28-day placement, RG was able to transition to a long-term foster placement, has regular contact with his family, and continues to apply himself at school. The most important factors in this were the simple routines and expectations, strong teamwork and good communication with parents and school. We were able through good recording, to provide evidence of RG's strengths and skills that were not evident at the start of the placement. This also supported his transition and the matching process to his long-term placement. ■