



Acorn Park

Oliver

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Life before Acorn Park

Before Acorn Park, Oliver had been through 12 placements in 14 years of education, from mainstream schools to special educational schools and residential schools, never really finding the perfect fit to suit his needs. From a young age Oliver showed a range of challenging behaviours.

“Before moving to Acorn Park, Ollie used to say that he hated his life, which was heartbreaking. He had endured a lifetime of failed placements, which had each traumatised him in different ways. Moving to Acorn Park was seen as a last resort and we as parents couldn’t help but feel we had failed. Making the decision to let our precious son go and live in a care home was devastating to us; we constantly worried if he would be kept clean, fed nice meals and cared for as we would want him to be.” **Oliver’s parents: Simon and Wendy**

Moving to Acorn Park

Transitioning to a new place can be scary and nerve racking as we all know. At Acorn Park Adult Services we try to ensure that we make new residents as comfortable and as happy as possible, by implementing transition plans and schedules. We introduce communication tools if necessary and work alongside our onsite speech and language team and occupational therapists to ensure all needs are met. We also organise trips for new residents to visit us here in Banham and meet our team, also for our team to come and visit family and potential residents, this ensures a good trust network from the beginning.

“Our worries were unfounded. Since moving to Acorn Park, Ollie now sees himself as having a good quality of life. He enjoys every day and has become much more communicative, initiating beautiful and interesting social conversations. He has a programme of activities which make up his week and his carers take him wherever he wants to go.” **Oliver’s parents: Simon and Wendy**

We work alongside Families and residents to cater weekly activities and timetables to offer all our residents choice and variety in their lives.

Here at adult services we strive to encourage our residents to live as independently as possible, providing plentiful access to the community, improving domestic skills and social skills. We like to celebrate every body’s individuality, and provide person centred care for all our residents.

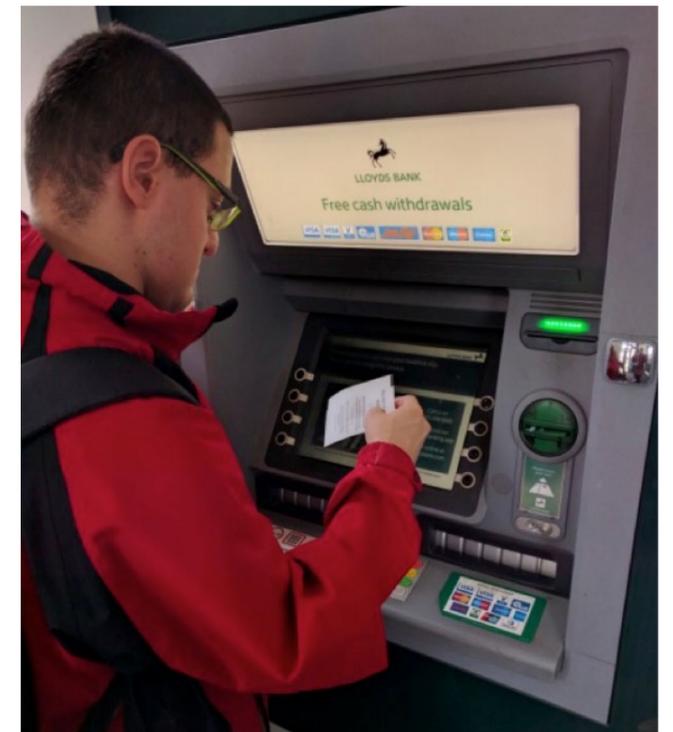


“I have been working with Oliver for a year now and what a pleasure he is to support! Oliver has really come a long way from when I first met him. He really used to keep himself to himself but now loves chatting with staff and sharing interests. We even sit together with a cup of tea and plan his trips and meals for the week as cooking is a great passion for Oliver.”

Oliver’s Key Support Worker: Phoenix

Oliver’s Progress

“Over the year we have worked on getting a voluntary job for Oliver, which he chose for himself. With support, Oliver filled out the application form and he now volunteers weekly on a regular basis. Customers always comment on what a friendly young man he is. Oliver has gained some great skills from this role including, improved communication skills, till training, and stock management- where he is dubbed speedy Gonzales because he can tackle any task well and efficiently! Oliver always comments on how he really enjoys his job and how it makes him very happy, especially rotating books and cds!” **Oliver’s Key Support Worker: Phoenix**



“Oliver has been working very well with his money management and has improved considerably over the course of the year. In the beginning staff were supporting Oliver fully with his money handling when out in the community, redirecting Oliver with coins and notes. Now Oliver carries his own wallet and has grasped understanding of coins and notes, paying for his own items, even implementing loyalty cards himself that he collects stamps for when visiting local coffee shops.” **Oliver’s Key Support worker: Phoenix**

“It is our greatest dream that the wonderful, supportive foundations which have been laid at Acorn Park will enable Ollie to move into his own living space at some stage in the future. In the meantime, we would be extremely cautious about anything which may threaten the wonderful life he has established living at Acorn Park - we will forever be in the debt of Susan and her staff - thank you so very much.” **Dad: Simon**

“We are now working towards the future for Oliver by supporting him with household tasks like laundry and housework and also integrating fully in the community. A fantastic achievement for Oliver has been that he successfully administers his own medication with great success and has been managing this very well. He checks his medication daily and also monitors room temperature with great accuracy. Our next goal for Oliver is to focus on cooking a meal independently following one of his many fantastic cook books - we are well on our way to completing this. We are now focusing on preparing Oliver for independent living which we are confident he will achieve.”

Oliver’s Key Support worker: Phoenix



“I initially met Ollie and his family right at the beginning of the assessment/transition process to Acorn Park. I could sense that both Ollie and his family were extremely apprehensive due to the countless unsuccessful placements Ollie had lived in over the years. We jointly put together an indepth transition plan which was solely developed with Ollie’s wishes and needs at the heart of it. Not only was the transition a complete success but over the years Ollie has progressed significantly in all areas of his life. Ollie took part in a recent CQC inspection which left him feeling liberated that his comments were printed in the inspection report. As well as the countless success’ Ollie has had over the years, I have also seen firsthand the joy, pride and content his family now feel every day which enables them to live their life knowing Ollie is safe, supported and thriving. I and Ollie’s parents have a wonderful relationship which enables us all to empower Ollie in his independence and confidence.” **Manager: Susan Ferrie**

A few words from Oliver himself

Do you like it at Acorn Park and why?

“Yes, I love it here! I’ve been here for two years and the time has flown by. The staff are really caring and friendly; they help you to do anything you want to do. They encourage you to be independent whilst supporting you with anything you need help with.”

How does Acorn Park make you feel?

“Really happy. I like that the people at Acorn Park understand that we’re all individuals and don’t treat us all the same. I’m really happy to be living here and really grateful to the staff for everything they’ve done for me.”

Do you feel you’ve learnt much from being here?

“Coming here has given me the confidence to do things like volunteer. I’ve learnt to do a lot of stuff I couldn’t do before. I’m a lot happier and more confident than I was before and I’m looking forward to the future. I love having my own car and being able to go to church and volunteer once a week, I didn’t used to do that.”