



Acorn Park

Oliver

“We are extremely grateful to the amazing staff at Acorn Park for all their hard work in ensuring our son is happy, healthy and fulfilled in life.” (Oliver’s mum: Diane)



Life before Acorn Park

Before coming to Acorn Park, Oliver was living at home due to other placements not meeting his needs, however his behaviour was becoming hard to manage in a home environment.

“Our son Oliver had been through some seriously distressing and damaging breakdowns of placements at previous settings and we came close to him being sectioned under the Mental Health Act because of a lack of skills and failures to adapt to anything remotely resembling a person centred care package.

Acorn Park was recommended to us by our social worker and we transitioned him from home at the start of 2017.” **Oliver’s Mum: Diane**

Transition to Acorn Park



The transition to Acorn Park went really well, with staff visiting Oliver at home and accompanying him on trips out, to gain a really good understanding of Oliver’s needs, likes and dislikes, and for Oliver to build trust and good relationships with staff.

This helped our team to design a good care plan that could identify Oliver’s needs, wants and what we can as a team work towards.

We always ensure at Acorn Park Adult Services that we tailor every care plan to individuals needs. We also access our onsite therapy team to assist with communication needs and social interactions. We can provide many tools like social stories and communication books for residents to use and we ensure our staff are trained with the knowledge to encourage this.

“The transition was extremely detailed and very well tailored to Oliver. We were doing activities with Oliver that he enjoyed, whilst getting to know Oliver which I feel helped a lot with the transition process.” **Oliver’s key worker: James**

Oliver was able to meet all the staff that he would be working with from Adult Services. We used photos of staff and schedules to plan our visits around Oliver’s lifestyle and when he felt confident enough, these were all given to Oliver to use. Staff created a planner and transition plan to communicate well with Oliver what would happen over the transition period, to limit

anxieties and stress as much as possible. Oliver responded well to new staff and really got to know many of the people he would be working with. We incorporated a monthly plan of action to all staff so that we could plan a good lengthy transition programme that worked for both staff and Oliver and his family.

“Oliver rarely uses symbols in a commutative sense but more for future planning, so we used monthly planners so Oliver was able to see which staff were coming to visit, what activities he had planned and when he was coming to visit here at Acorn Park. I feel this really helped Oliver to feel less anxious about the future and what was going to happen with the transition.”

Oliver’s key worker: James

“Oliver still has some anxiety but the staff at Acorn Park are learning about Oliver and he is gradually becoming more confident and feels increasingly safe in the caring environment that Acorn Park provides.” **Oliver’s Mum: Diane**

Oliver came to visit his new home here at Acorn Park on a few occasions. Oliver chose a room he liked in the house and staff then helped to decorate the room to how Oliver would like it to be. Oliver showed a real keen interest in music so staff painted a mural to make Oliver feel right at home.

On moving day, we made sure staff who Oliver knew well were on shift to welcome him and to assist with unpacking and setting up the house how Oliver liked it.





Life at Acorn Park

At the beginning, Oliver was quite nervous- understandably as this was all a new learning curve for him. We made sure that we respected Oliver's wishes and helped overtime to encourage Oliver with positive interactions with staff and the surroundings. We used symbols and PEC schedules to encourage communication.

Oliver did display some challenging behaviour, which staff handled very well. Again, we focused on good choices and bad, always reinforcing good choices. This really helped Oliver to adapt to adult life here at Acorn Park and with this Oliver really started to come out of himself and his fantastic personality is really shining through.

"Oliver's first few weeks were very challenging, as they would be for any new resident. With his high mental capacity and very complex individual needs, he found it very hard to trust his new staff and his new environment, which meant Oliver was very introverted in his personality.

After his first few weeks at Acorn Park, we kept talking and interacting in places that Oliver felt comfortable in like his room and slowly built a personal working relationship with him. Once the trust was in place with his new staff, he started to integrate into new areas of his home and new activities more, and this has continued to grow ever since." **Oliver's key worker: James**

"I have built a great working relationship with Oliver over the past few months. I find that the longer we interact and positively encourage this we are really coming to an understanding and building a great level of trust, it's really bringing out Oliver's personality."

Oliver's key worker: Alex

"Our experience of other care homes is that they say all the right things to parents but fail to meet expectations. We are very happy to see that Acorn Park staff and management actively do practice what they preach and work extremely hard to deal with the complex and challenging behaviours that Oliver can exhibit."

Oliver's Mum: Diane

Oliver's Progress

Oliver has settled in very well and behaviours have decreased as Oliver has become more relaxed in his environment. Now that a good base of trust has been built between Oliver and staff, Oliver is steadily accessing the community and enjoying many activities like laser tag and Go Ape.

"The working relationships and trust he has built with his staff is constantly improving, so much so that the staff can really bring Oliver down from his anxieties and proactively monitor his anxieties well. Also, accessing the community has gotten a lot better and also his decision making has improved even though he may need lengthy transitions to make these decisions, staff fully support Oliver with this and provide positive encouragement and reinforcement."

Oliver's key worker: James

"Oliver's confidence has raised a lot as he has gotten used to his new surroundings and he is exploring the community now whereas before he didn't want to leave his new place very much."

Oliver's key worker: Alex

Staff feel that Oliver's behaviours and anxieties have decreased and they have got to a steady stage with Oliver.

"Oliver likes to push boundaries and test staff to see how much he can trust them and how strong the relationship is. I feel I have really overcome hurdles with Oliver and reassured him we are here to help and support him with living a fulfilling life. Through the good and the bad, life is most certainly not easy but here at Acorn Park Adult Services we always try to encourage problem solving and giving Oliver his own choices." **Oliver's key worker: Alex**

Oliver accesses our onsite speech and language sessions every week. We have also been working on getting to an understanding with personal space and self regulating, which Oliver has taken on very well and is making lots of improvements in.

"I've really noticed that Ollie's speech has come along really well. He paces himself and is controlling his breathing along with pronunciation. He is also trying more foods and opening up with food choices."

Oliver's key worker: Alex



Looking to the future

“Acorn Park is the best experience Oliver has had and we feel confident that he will continue to thrive, and that his time there is filled with fun and happiness surrounded by staff who genuinely care and work to see Oliver gets the most out of his time there. We are extremely grateful to the amazing staff at Acorn Park for all their hard work in ensuring our son is happy, healthy and fulfilled in life.” **Oliver’s Mum: Diane**

“Ollie has been with us for just over four months now and in that short space of time I have seen a significant increase in positive outcomes. This is as a result of not only the dynamic skill set of our staff team here at Acorn Park but also because of the valuable and trusting relationship we have built with Ollie’s parents and family.

I feel confident that with this continual support from our highly skilled staff at Acorn Park that Ollie will continue to develop his skills in all areas of his life. I look forward to seeing further the happiness, fun and laughter Ollie brings to each day.” **Adult Services Manager: Susan**



A few words from Oliver himself

Do you like living at Acorn Park?

“Yes. I feel happy. Staff are very helpful.”

What do you enjoy the most about living at Acorn Park?

“Playing in the garden, dancing, singing, going to Quasar and messy play.”

What would you like to do next here at Acorn Park?

“Go to a disco, Summer Fetes and a music group.”

What are your goals when you are older?

“I would like to work at Quasar.”