

QAF case study - Recognising change



THE YOUNG PERSON

Billy* is a 6 year old boy who came into care at 5 months of age and was placed in a relative/kinship placement. This has been his only placement.

Billy has a number of disabilities that have affected his ability to settle and was not on track to meet his milestones. He recently started kindergarten at age 6.

CASEWORK AND THE QUALITY ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK

Billy's carer has completed three Strength and Difficulties Questionnaires (SDQs) as part of the Quality Assurance Framework (QAF). The questionnaires are completed on a six monthly basis and gives an opportunity to track results over time.

Results from the questionnaires clearly showed that Billy needed additional supports to be put in place. Results helped inform National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) planning, securing occupational therapy aids, development of communication strategies and training for Billy's carer.

A Personalised Learning and Support Plan is currently being developed for Billy at school as he struggles in the classroom environment. Billy's casework continues to focus on maintaining support within the classroom.

THE OUTCOME

Since the additional support has been introduced, Billy is now more settled in his placement. His foster family have reported his frustration levels have decreased as he has been able to learn to communicate more effectively.

Billy's caseworker used the Child Overviews to show the carer the positive changes for Billy since the interventions have been in place. They could review scores over a period of 18 months. This was significant as this showed clear evidence of the positive change that had occurred for Billy. The visual representation of the change to scores had a strong impact on the carer more so than just discussing those changes.

The carer exclaimed that 'she could not believe the changes in the child's scores'. It seemed that the documented evidence in the Child Overview triggered a different response in the carer's belief system and showed the positive changes that were occurring for Billy.

The carer reports that Billy continues to progress, in a number of areas measured in the SDQ, he is less restless and is learning to share. There is an increased understanding of others feelings, ability to get along with peers, and ability to think before he acts. Another positive outcome is that Billy now has a friend.

Billy still has a long way to go as difficulties are still present, however the carer reports Billy does not lose his temper as often and difficulties reported in the SDQ have decreased.

*Name/s changed to protect the privacy of individuals