

QAF case study – Evidence of change



THE YOUNG PERSON

Leonard* is an 8 year old boy who came into care at the age of 2 years.

Leonard was initially placed in relative/kinship care for three years before he moved to into care with another relative.

Leonard has a diagnosis of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorder and a moderate intellectual delay, as well as mild anxiety.

CASEWORK AND THE QUALITY ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK

Much of the casework undertaken with Leonard has focused on relationship building and establishing trust. Over a number of months the caseworker has worked with Leonard to get him to answer the questions on Viewpoint. Leonard now completes the QAF Child and Young Person Questionnaire in Viewpoint and shows amazing patience and restraint and loves to play the game at the end of the questionnaire.

Leonard's carer has completed four Strength and Difficulties Questionnaires (SDQ), six months apart. The results initially showed there was significant impact of Leonard's behavior on the family and the need for further support.

THE OUTCOME

The SDQ had highlighted the impact of Leonard's disability on his life. It showed he had few friendships, he was being bullied and lacked self-esteem. This prompted focused casework support in the form of National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) funding that specifically focused on speech therapy and social skills.

Support from the departments psychologist is helping the carer with strategies to cope with Leonard's challenging behaviors. Revision of the Behaviour Management Plan is underway refining and expanding activities.

Leonard's carer reflects on her experience of the QAF

'It was so enlightening seeing the results. I can actually see when comparing the results the times when Leonard was doing well and when his anxiety was peaking. I now understand how this reflects and links to his behaviours such as not engaging at home or school.'

The QAF identified a number of issues that are now being addressed through support services and ongoing casework management. The QAF have given the opportunity for both the carer and the caseworker to map Leonard's outcomes and progress over time.

*Name/s changed to protect the privacy of individuals