**JB**

JB is a young 16 year old male living in a small residential care facility with one other young male (also being cared for). The residential care facility where he lives is a significant distance away from his home in Doncaster. On the day on which the interview for this research was due to take place JB had left the home angry at the care staff. He had thought that he was seeing his mum, the care staff said they didn’t know why he’d thought that. The staff spent a lot of time trying to track him down at spots that he often goes to like the supermarket and train station.

**The Impact of Out of Area Care:-**

JB is being supported out of Doncaster as a consequence of there being no specialised capacity available locally. Had there been capacity in Doncaster he would not be where he was. JB sees the distance this places between him and his family and friends negatively.

I was sad to leave Doncaster. It’s where I live isn’t it. It’s where my family live. I was pretty upset to leave. I keep in touch with friends and family on facebook. Everytime when I come back to see my mates it’s hard knowing I’m not going to see them for a little while… I like being in this care home but I wish it was closer to Doncaster - nearer my mum. Yeah I don’t like the long distances between my family.

Those supporting him, such as his Social Worker would probably say that there is a real chance that some of the successes in JB’s development may not have happened had he been in Doncaster, or specifically interacting with the same social networks. The social work support for JB has pointed to the fact that he often mirrors the behaviour of those around him so it is important that he is around people who have a positive impact on him. They acknowledge that he will probably need to return to Doncaster and will create a bespoke plan of support to deal with the issues that will pose.

**Mum:-**

There is a disconnect between the way JB sees his mum and the way the professionals providing JB’s support see his mum. JB’s social worker and other carers believe she has quite a negative impact on JB and often lets him down. JB struggles to see this or to at least admit it. She has had very limited contact with JB whilst he has been in his social care placement. In our discussion for this work JB touched on his Mum’s role in him being taken into care – there is a tension here around responsibility.

I was put in care because of Family problems. Me Mum was a very depressed woman – drinking and all that – and because she couldn’t control my behaviour. I was put into care to keep me safe.

**Summary of JB’s Journey:-**

JB accepted that he found it difficult adapting to life in care. This issue around acclimatising was demonstrated through behaviour which he describes as unacceptable.

I’ve been in care for two years and when I first came my behaviour was not acceptable but whilst I’ve been here it’s improved massively. I used to run away – bully people – just mainly… being a little kid basically, just messing about really. I just didn’t care and I didn’t want to be in care – it was all very new and I wasn’t feeling ready for it…

JB is now much more settled. He is doing well and has shown a particular interest in developing hairdressing skills at the local college. He does want to move back to Doncaster, the challenge for his social worker will be in enabling all the different transitions – from out of area back to Doncaster, and from Child Social Services to more independence – all without losing all the positive improvements JB has made.