



*Bella and Riley's story

19th November 2024



SOUTHAMPTON
CITY COUNCIL

Purpose and Content

We are going to share a families story who have been supported by the Learning Disability team in partnership with Children's Services to ensure that the family were able to remain together.

This is the first family I have had in this situation, as unfortunately it is not common for parents with learning needs to keep custody of their children.

We are going to talk about the approach we took to support the family to achieve this.

Background

- **Bella, a single mum with learning needs**
- **Initial referral made by the midwife**
- **Mental Health, ACEs, housing, risk of exploitation, managing routines**
- **Parenting assessment**

Care Act / Partnership Approach

- **The Care Act 2014 established that safeguarding is everybody's business. Local Authority, Police and NHS partners play a key role in preventing, detecting, reporting and responding to abuse, neglect or exploitation. Partners must find ways of helping people to protect themselves and ways of protecting those least able.**
- **Children and Adult services have a statutory duty to collaborate under the Care Act 2014.**

Roles and responsibilities

Primary focus on the safety and wellbeing of the child

Working closely with the foster carers

Inter-agency working

Creating a robust transition plan to facilitate Bella and Riley moving to independent living

Reasonable adjustments

- **Breaking down discussions into chunks.**
- **Using simple language, short sentences.**
- **Give concrete examples, not abstract.**
- **Asking Bella to repeat back what has been asked to demonstrate her understanding.**
- **Using visual aids to support verbal communication and given language barrier.**
- **Provide with a notebook to make her own notes, and for assessor to put in any details of session they wish to aid recall.**
- **Regular breaks to be offered and wellbeing check in.**

Outcomes

Riley is no longer under a s20

Riley and Bella have moved into independent living

Right to a family life for Bella and Riley

The family are flourishing

Riley is a content, happy toddler

A word from Bella

- **Bella shared that at first, she felt she wouldn't be able to care for Riley because of her learning needs but she feels she has proved to everyone and proved to herself that she can and she said she can't believe she's managed to do it. She feels she has come so far and is proud of herself.....**

Any questions?

Thank you for listening