**MJ Awards**

On the 3rd May, Caroline Naven, Nicola Holmes and Anthony Clayton presented to the Panel responsible for judging the’ innovation in children’s and adults’ services category’ of the MJ Awards.

Describing the process we adopted, Anthony said:

*“We showed a presentation to the judges. The first slide was us introducing ourselves to the judges and giving a bit of information about what we do. The second slide Caroline spoke to the judges about our services and we also had recordings from some of our young people. We used the famous Desmond Tutu quote “there comes a point when we need to stop just pulling people out of the river. We need to go upstream and find out why they are falling in” to describe our aim. Nicola talked about the innovation in Birmingham and our emphasis on co-production. I completed the presentation by talking about the impact that we make for our young people as well as my role in the team starting with my internship to securing an apprenticeship with the PFA team.”*

Once we finished our presentation, the judges asked each of use a few questions with a real emphasis on sustainability. It was really positive to inform the judges that the service has been mainstreamed and that is testimony to support of senior leaders and the impact of the PFA team in a short period of time. They also asked us where we see ourselves in 5 years’ time, to which we responded that we see a fully embedded service which continues to make a real difference to the young people we work with.

 **“PFA & Transitions service redesign”**

We are delighted to announce that the consultation on the redesign of the PFA & Transitions Service has received final sign off by the Trade Unions and Adult Social Care Senior Management Team.  We are now looking forward to implementing our new service offer which includes a tiered offer of support and commissioning functionality.   The majority of colleagues have been assimilated into roles and interviews have taken place for remaining colleagues who were ring fenced.

We are aiming to advertise remaining posts on a staggered basis from the week commencing 23rd May.

We are working through our mobilisation plan on issues such as recruitment, communications and pathways with a view to a go live launch date of 01st August.

We have completed this consultation exercise in three months.  We would like to thank all colleagues on the project group for their hard work and all colleagues for their input & feedback which has been positive and engaging throughout.

We are now looking forward to building a new service, one which will provide us with the capacity we need to support our young people and put them at the heart of everything we do.

**Personal Budget Good News Story**

A PFA Personal Budget was given to Anna to help her buy the equipment she needed to set up her own hairdressing business and we are delighted to hear that she has been nominated for an EPIC Young Entrepreneur award. To see Anna’s work and to book appointments, please follow her Instagram page **\_annabelle.styles\_** We wish her all the best with her nomination and are looking forward to following her future success!

**Kajans Women’s Enterprise Ltd.**

Kajans is a part of a movement of community- led housing developers. They are part of a national network led by localities of developers and are currently working in Birmingham. They aim to provide affordable housing for vulnerable people in practical partnership with other organisations. Historically working with young black and Asian women, they are moving into supporting young women transitioning into adulthood and in the future, will be scoping services with those with drug, alcohol, domestic abuse, autism spectrum disorder and/or mental health who are transitioning in to living independently.

They have various programs available at differing times:

* Plus 1 mother and baby program.
* House Mothers program providing emergency support for young people in crisis who have been ejected from their family home. They will liaise with the young person and her family for up to 5 days to re unite the young person with their family.
* Y-Wittah – Housing for those transitioning into adulthood, in Birmingham from 18 -29. There is one wheelchair accessible housing unit. There are nine beds in total and they are hoping to open in 2023.
* They are aiming to offer early intervention, after care service, BTEC, Health and social care and hospitality and business courses.

Referrals can be made by a central point of access at 0121 507 0904 between 9-5 pm

**Story of Difference** by Ebony Hemmings

**Tell me about the Transitions journey?**

I have been working with a young man who loves Barry White, native foods and Jamaican Hardo bread with hot chocolate. On good days he can hit the back of a basketball net better than Shaquille O’Neal. I am pretty impressed by his ability to recite every Netflix movie he watches.

He’s a real character. He has a diagnosis of autism and mental health. In late 2021, this young man jumped out of a first-floor window. Thankfully, one broken bone, a few grazes but he survived, yet spent six months in hospital. Amongst other risks, the main risk is that he was becoming institutionalised. He could have been discharged a long time ago yet, with safeguarding issues at his current abode, the decision for him to return home was not one that could have been made without identifying the associated risks.

With potentially 15 professionals involved in his care from multi-disciplinary teams (MDT) his circumstances are very complex. With so many voices, there was the risk that his voice would become a silent whisper and I couldn’t bear the thought of any more MDT meetings, with no progress. So, I took charge, and coordinated his discharge with those professionals who could support the discharge decision. Whilst MDT meetings focused on professional opinions, I focused on the input from my young man’s mother as she knows him best.

**What impact did this have for you? (young person/family?)**

Mum plays an active role in her son’s life. She works full time and has other school aged siblings. For months Mum has been dividing her time between, work, hospital visits, child rearing and professional’s meetings. In one prearranged meeting, we were able to solely listen to Mum’s views, present evidence and encourage Mum to explore her wishes and feelings. She did that in a safe space, without intimidation. She found a home that she had researched, jointly with one health coordinator, we visited and explored its potential - the home assessed and accepted. This meant that the young man could be discharged (in theory) after seven months.

**What challenges were faced throughout the journey?**

High costs packages always see overly eager providers, without empathy to the level or quality of care. Telling a provider, ‘we are ending your role as we don’t believe the care is adequate’, is difficult, yet a conversation that needed to be held in this case. Challenging advocates, conflicting health agendas is unfortunately all part of the process. It was a headache. That aside, I continued to advocate for this young man and his family. The bottom line being that whilst we have separate agendas, we have the same goal. It’s not OK, to come to work on a day off because the hospital are pressuring for discharge, but I did. Without my input the hospital would have discharged him without the equipment he needed. After a few abrupt emails and phone calls he was staying put. No equipment no discharge.

*Continued on next page*

*Story of Difference continued*

**Conclusion**

I can’t take full credit for the outcome with this young man. If it wasn’t for my team manager attending meetings, swift budget authorisations from the Head of Service, Senior Practitioner’s decisions (who I emailed a minimum of 5 times daily) and colleagues who jumped on Teams calls to support with forms I would have been able to move forward. Its team work that truly makes ‘the dream work’. The credit of a positive outcome is not mine but belongs to my team.

As for my young man, he’s safe is in his new home where he has staff wrapped around his little finger. That doesn’t mean they give in to his 3am demands for Burger King. I just see that as a positive sign that he is becoming familiar with his support team and he can show his personality in a skilled and stable environment.

Tomorrow is another day.

**RISE youth form**





**Update from the YES group…**

The YES group have had a bit of a break this month but we spoke to Rosie Oswick, a PhD student who works with Dr Gary Kerridge at the University of Warwick. We also discussed the creation of co-production champions with Sarah Kumar from the PFA & Transitions Service. Simon Furze, from the Citizen Involvement Team, spoke to the group about crime and he showed them a presentation about a piece of work they would be undertaking.

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**How to contact us**

If you would like to make a connection request to the Preparation for Adulthood Service, then please call: 0121 808 0028

For any other queries:

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