

PE1837/O

Patsy Quinn submission of 26 January 2021

I am in support of the petition PE1837.

I was the carer of a young man aged 19 who was failed by the system. All his life I had to fight to get him support because his disabilities were not visible. When I asked for support all the services said it was just bad behaviour. He was given a late diagnosis of Asperger's Syndrome.

Education was difficult for him as main stream education did not meet his needs. We had tried when he was 14 to get him into a school that met his needs. They could support him on a 2 to 1 basis but I had to get education and social work to refer him. He had agreed to go, said it looked great, but education said no his mainstream school was best. Then 4 weeks later they said there's no point him being here and he stopped attending school. Due to lack of support, he ended up in the criminal justice system.

He received a diagnosis of ADHD when at a young offenders institute. It took him going to prison to get some help and medication for his ADHD but he received no support once he was out. When he got out of the young offender's institute, he was put in housing support that did not meet his needs. This service was not geared towards a teenager with ASD and ADHD. He was not in employment or training and had a lack of support from social work.

He was depressed and became suicidal and was saying he was going to kill himself. This was made worse when his best friend overdosed and had died in front of him 5 weeks before. He and another friend tried to revive him but couldn't. He was told on the Tuesday that his friends funeral was on the Friday and he just couldn't cope.

He had been trying to get help from his social worker but could not get support as an adult. He received support as a child because I was his Kinship carer and he had a residence order until he was 16. He had a children and family's social worker but we could not get him support as an adult.

He was living in a hostel and he overdosed. He went out and a member of staff found him in the street passed out she called an ambulance and did CPR on him and she managed to restart his heart. He was taken to hospital and treated but then he was able to walk out of the hospital. He was brought back to hospital and walked out again.

I got a call at 7.30PM and I went to the hospital. Unknown to me he had been there twice that day. He told the staff and his family that he was going to finish the job.

In the hospital he started to wake up and he asked me why I was there then he said oh no I'm still here. Despite him saying this they still would not section him. The staff told me he would be lucky to survive the night and in the unlikely scenario he did survive he would have had severe brain damage, yet they let him walk out again. The services did not think he was at immediate danger and sent him home each time. When at home he took another fatal over dose.

All agencies failed him and he did not receive support for his ASD and ADHD. The suicide rate among those with ASD was 9 times higher than the general population. Between 30% and 50% of autistic people have considered committing suicide. Balfe, M, Tantam, D (2010). Raja, M (2014) Segers, M &, Rawana, J (2014).

His carer made the point that she had received good support from her carers centre but the carers centre had been put out to tender and she was no longer receiving suitable support to meet her needs as a carer from the new centre.

I currently support a twenty-one year old and I cannot get adequate support for them. They have been refused self-directed support and are currently receiving no support from social work. They are another young person who is getting failed by the system which provides poor support to young adults with ASD and which fails to move many young people from child services into adult services.