

Vignette seventeen

Recently moved to different accommodation provider - waiting list to get there - waited long time to get there - It was refreshing to look at set-up before ... moved in to do trial - attitude of manager was so good - "Tell me about your son - I found her attitude so refreshing - "What does he need?" - she took notes - he needs a bit of direction supported accommodation - support not just about giving direction - where he was before lost confidence - having people around that provide caring encouraging support motivates him. He moved there for trial - rather rocky for a time - found structure different to what he- was used to - positive about being there - liked set-up, liked people living with - liked location' of place - seemed comfortable spending time getting to know other clients and staff. We as parents came to see this - in himself a lot easier - more comfortable in himself, not quite the need to prove himself as in the past. With difficulties, the staff were up-front about what was happening. I knew when I rang, visited, I got a fair account of what was happening and was told what they were doing to manage the situation.

In his previous accommodation I got a negative account, their attitude was "This is what he needs to do. That's where we stop. We don't, we can't do this. They were really negative with me and really negative with him - there wasn't the awareness of how things could be done differently - different behaviours - all individuals - challenge is to work to enable them to move forward - because of the rigidity, difficulties in engaging ...'s mental health took a dive - no consistency.

Where he is living now the communication between support workers is a lot better - better management, consistent approach from staff. Before it depended on the person on duty - With his new set-up some guidelines are prepared by staff, policy involved - What was he doing after work? How does he spend his time? - a lot more proactive in managing him - he began to feel more secure - not acting out immaturely - having stand-offs - things settled down- now a few months later it is a lot more settled. Others are saying it seems to suit him better here. He can start to be doing some things- shop better for healthy food.