

## Conflict Resolution Good Practice Case Study

### The Background

JW has been looked after by the Local Authority since 2015. He'd had 10 placements in that time and had been in his current residential home since October 2019. JW (and his sister) came into care following concerns for their safety and allegations made by JW's sister of sexual assault by their mother's then partner. JW is 16 years old. JW has a diagnosis of global developmental delay and an EHC plan is in place. JW also has a real love of trains!

JW is residing at a residential placement in the Peterborough area, having moved there on 09/10/2019. Prior to this placement, JW had a number of placement moves. In his current placement JW presents as both happy and settled, but he had been out of education for some time. There was a struggle to find an appropriate school placement for JW and, as such, he was classified as a 'child missing education'. When he had finally been allocated a school place, an issue arose just before he was due to start, relating to transport and 'Who?' was responsible for paying for it. This risked a dispute between two local authorities and meant that JW was at risk of not being able to start school with all other pupils at the start of a new school year.

### Agencies Involved

- Virtual School
- Safeguarding Quality Assurance Service (SQAS) – IRO
- Children with Disability Team
- Children's Home Manager
- Peterborough County Council
- Northamptonshire Children's Trust

### The Incident / Conflict

Following JW being allocated a school place, 1 week before he was due to start, the issue with transport was identified. The Children's Home manager alerted JW's IRO to the issue. The IRO intervened and followed up with Children Disabilities Team to make sure transport was in place. As the concerns related to which authority (NCT or Peterborough) was liable to fund JW's transport. Following the IRO's intervention, it was agreed by NCT DCT Service Manager that funding should come from NCT.

### **Good Practice**

The IRO and Service Manager for DCT were able to resolve the issue through discussion, with NCT acknowledging that, as JW's corporate parent, it was our duty to ensure JW was able to get to school, regardless of potential barriers.

### **Outcome for the Child**

JW was able to start school, on time and with his peers; he remains in education.