

*"It's very important to me that The Orchards is a home, and we are a family to the child. I know we're not the birth family, and this isn't the family home, but it's important every child and young person feels that they belong here and feel comfortable and happy."*

*Curtis' progress here is magnificent. It is so rewarding to see. When I first met him, I was hugely motivated about what we might achieve for him and how we could go about it.*

*His behaviour is spontaneous, and we are still caring for him with two members of staff but I believe we can get to a day where he can go out with just one other person, which will draw less attention to him in the community.*

*I'd hope that Curtis might be able to progress to have a night at home with Mum. No one wants to put their child into residential care and we have seen her sadness. But she couldn't cope with him at home. They went out*

*together for a meal on Mother's Day. Their relationship is heart warming because she is so supportive and we can see how much they love each other.*

*He was very quiet and unsure when he first arrived, but now he's happy and he's always smiling and singing. He's very much part of life at The Orchards.*

*Each child here has their own progress tracker and we know exactly what progress they've made and when. It doesn't matter how long it takes.*

*All his progress has been extraordinary: attending school, going out, taking part in everyday tasks here. I'm delighted."*

**Zoey Lees**  
Registered Manager

The Orchards provides a home for **five children**. With **five bedrooms, two bathrooms**, a shared kitchen, living room and **large conservatory**, the children have the use of their own sensory room and a large garden to enjoy.

Curtis

*"Curtis' progress here is magnificent. It is so rewarding to see..."*

**Zoey Lees**  
Registered Manager



*"For me, the best thing of all is that he'll come up, hug me and say 'Love you Mum.' It means the world."*

**Curtis' Mum**

*"Since he has been at The Orchards, everything about his life has improved, and he's happy."*

**Curtis' Mum**

Pathway Care Solutions provides high quality care for looked-after children. With a philosophy of homes in family-sized houses, it avoids the effect of institutionalism and fosters a spirit of family-like living, allowing children to receive the individual care and attention they require to produce the best possible outcomes.

We offer long & medium term placements, after care, reception and assessment, shared and domiciliary care for young people with:

- Moderate, Severe and Complex Learning Disabilities requiring continuing care.
- Autistic Spectrum Disorders [ASD].
- Social & Emotional difficulties, often expressed through challenging behaviour and attachment difficulties.
- Severe physical disabilities requiring Total Care.
- Children & Young People with mental health issues, at risk of Self-Harm who require therapeutic intervention.

0115 947 3142

[www.pathwaycaresolutions.co.uk](http://www.pathwaycaresolutions.co.uk)

Curtis has profound autism and associated learning difficulties and sensory needs. His behaviour at home had deteriorated to a point that his Mum, reluctantly, decided it would be best for him to go into care.

He hadn't been to school for more than six months Teachers admitted they couldn't educate him but could only contain him for his own safety.

*"The Orchards has been fantastic for Curtis.*

*Since he has been at The Orchards his behaviour has improved massively. Everything about his life has improved and he's happy. When I walk in to see him, there is a wonderful atmosphere, Curtis is often singing and I know he's happy.*

*For me, the best thing of all is that he'll now come up and hug me and say 'Love you Mum.' It means the world.*

*The staff are fantastic with him and so patient. They constantly work so hard with him. They will use different strategies with him until they find something that works for him. They come up with ideas I wouldn't have dreamed of. I have learned so much from them and now I use the same strategies with him.*

*I go and see him several times a week and I am always made to feel welcome. Sometimes, I'll have my dinner with him, sometimes I'll help him having a bath before bed.*

*I have no worries at all about him being there. The staff know him very well and understand him. They always concentrate on what's best for Curtis and don't take the option of what's easiest for them. They are wonderful.*

*Sometimes, as his Mum, it's hard to accept he is in a children's home but he had become very negative towards me at home. He would bite and scratch and throw things and I just couldn't cope.*

*Now, most of the time, it's hard to believe he is the same child. He still has his moments, of course but he's much calmer and I know he's happy. The way all the staff work with my son is just fantastic.*

*I speak to Curtis on the telephone every evening and the staff will tell me how he has been that day. My contact with them is fantastic. I know he is so much happier than he used to be.*

*He'll come with his carer for a home visit at weekends and we'll have dinner, do some activities together but he'll let me know the moment he wants to go back to The Orchards! That's hard for me, but I know that he is settled and happy there.*

*I worry about the future because I know he can't stay at The Orchards for ever but now I've seen the standard of their care, I wouldn't want to ever accept anything less."*

**Jenny, Curtis' Mum**



*"Curtis loves to be involved with everything that is happening in the house."*

**Zoey Lees  
Registered Manager**

## ACTIVITIES AT THE ORCHARDS

More than 40 activities take place after school, at weekends and during the school holidays. Curtis loves most of the activities that are arranged:

**GAMES | BOWLING | SWIMMING | CAR JOURNEYS  
CAMPING | TRAM RIDES | BOATING | SHOPPING  
HORSE RIDING | COUNTRY WALKS | TRAIN RIDES  
BUS TRIPS | GARDEN ACTIVITIES | CANOEING  
HOME VISITS | PICNICS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE  
TRIPS TO THE SEASIDE | SENSORY ROOM  
TIDYING | DUSTING | VACUUM CLEANING**



## PROGRESS AT THE ORCHARDS

	At time of placement: April 2013	September 2015
Life Skills	None.	Curtis likes to take part in everything. In the kitchen he helps prepare meals and to cook. He makes his own drinks and snacks, with supervision. Curtis loves doing tasks around the house & garden, and particularly enjoys sweeping, polishing, and cleaning windows. His absolute favourite job is vacuum cleaning. He will fetch his own washing and, with prompts, put it into the washing machine.
Accessing the community	When Curtis first arrived we struggled to get him to go anywhere.	Curtis loves to go out and particularly loves going on public transport - trains, trams and buses. He'll join in with the big weekly shop, as well as topping up on fresh items at the local shops.
Overcoming fears	Curtis was very scared about going swimming.	We will persevere with strategies until we know they'll work for Curtis. So we took him first to look at the leisure centre, then the following visit we took him inside, then took him to see the pool, and so on. We sat with him for an entire session with just his toe in the water: we have as much patience as Curtis needs and it works.
Night time routine	Curtis needed to be tightly tucked in to his bed and wouldn't go to sleep alone.	From the days when staff had to sit, stroke his head and sing him to sleep, Curtis is now taken to bed and happily goes off to sleep on his own. He feels safe and he's learned that we're always there when he wakes up. During the night there are always three staff on duty here.
Personal Care	Frightened of the bath and shower: refused to use them.	Curtis loves getting washed and clean and he'll bath or shower twice daily. Sometimes his Mum will come in to supervise his evening bath time and she enjoys having that time with him and will perhaps want to put him to bed and say goodnight which is lovely for them both. She knows she is welcome any time: she's very supportive to him.
Accessing Education	No access to education for more than six months.	Curtis wasn't attending education at all when he came to The Orchards because of the severity of his behaviour: now he is accessing school full time, and only misses a day if he is ill or has to attend an appointment. We've worked with him to understand his behaviours and supported him in his need for consistency and routines.

