

When Sam first arrived at Bridge House it was clear to see that he worked best with routine. Morning and evening routines were important for him and we worked hard to ensure that he could understand through visual prompts. Progress was slow but sure.

We have professional, experience well-trained staff who are available day and night: it's very different to trying to cope as a family. We have an excellent relationship with Sam's family and they're very supportive.

Prior to Bridge House, Sam was at a residential school so we had to re-introduce him to travelling to school. We did everything gradually and now Sam loves going to school. He is doing well and meeting his targets.

In 2013 he successfully completed his Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award which is an amazing achievement.

He has really thrived in this small setting where he knows the routines.

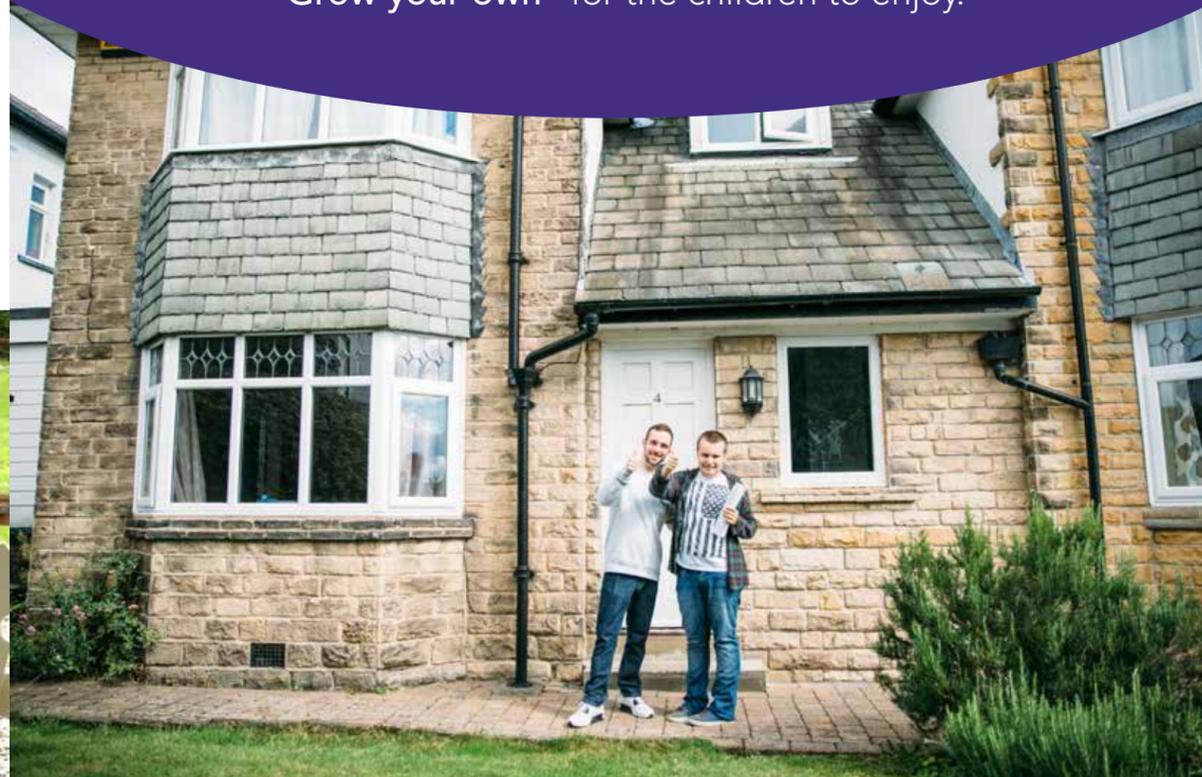
With supervision he will now shower himself without prompts. He sorts his washing and puts the machine on the right setting. He gets his own breakfast and Sam is willing and able to make his own snacks. He washes his own dishes after meals.

He's very lively, and he works best when he understands his routines. He's an affectionate lad and he can show us he's happy.

We call him our little star because his progress here is amazing. He's happy and settled here and we're working hard to prepare him as much as we can for adult life. He'll always need some support but with his personal care, his social life, and his willingness now to try new things he has made tremendous progress with us.

Sam has matured into a very resilient young man.

Bridge House provides a home for three children from the age of 8 to 18. With three bedrooms, bathroom and separate WC, there is a shared living room, resource room, dining room and kitchen. Outside, the private garden has a trampoline and a patch to "Grow your own" for the children to enjoy.



Pathway Care Solutions provides high quality care for looked-after children. With a philosophy of homes in family-sized houses, we avoid the effect of institutionalism and foster 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 a wide range of long & medium term placements, aftercare, 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

Sam

"Sam has matured into a very resilient young man."

Stephanie Skinner,
Registered Manager



"Bridge House is one on its own. It's a happy family atmosphere & Sam has responded to it. I shall never be able to thank them enough."

Sam's Mum

"We call him 'Our Little Star' because his progress here is just amazing."

Stephanie Skinner
Registered Manager



0115 947 3142

www.pathwaycaresolutions.co.uk

Sam moved to live at Bridge House from a residential school, so that he could be closer to his family. He arrived with a list of only ten items of processed food he would eat: he was small for his age and underweight. Sam is on the autistic spectrum with learning and language difficulties and ADHD.

Now he has a healthy diet, is attending a new day school and enjoying visits home to see his Mum, Dad, sister and brother twice a week.

"Sam had become totally unmanageable at home. We were at our wits end. His Dad couldn't cope with Sam's behaviour, his younger sister reached a point that she was afraid of him and his elder brother wouldn't want to come home."

It was a terrible situation and it was making me ill. It is unbearable to make the decision to take one of your children out of the family home. I think it'll affect me for the rest of my life. But we've made the best of that situation with Bridge House. The staff have become like close friends and I trust them totally. To me, it's reassuring to know that he's in good hands and he can come home as much as he wants to."

It's wonderful for the whole family. Sam has such a good social life. He's never in! I wouldn't be able to do all that for him. He loves going out on public transport, to the cinema, and I can't believe all the things he does. Before, he wouldn't have coped with the other people and all the noise. The staff are brilliant with him."

Bridge House has given Sam chances in life that he would never have had before and he is succeeding. It proves to me that if you get the right, experienced people, as Sam has, it can make a huge difference to the quality of his life."

He is a totally different person, even down to the things that he'll eat. I can see that he's happier and he feels secure there. He used to be so aggressive but now it's very rare that he kicks off and never to the same extent."

Bridge House is special because it runs just like a family home. It has a family atmosphere: not institutionalised at all. The staff genuinely care about Sam and the other children. They're don't just say what I want to hear. They work as a real team and the management at Bridge House is fantastic."

Sam's always well turned out; he's always clean, and he always wears nice, trendy clothes."

I shall never be able to thank them enough. Bridge House is one on its own. It's a happy family atmosphere and Sam has responded to it. The other children respond to it too, and they all deserve that happiness."

The relationship Sam has now with the whole family is so much better. His sister is very protective towards him and his brother makes time for him. They're all close now: I'm so pleased."

Jill Wilson, Sam's Mum

"Bridge House has given Sam chances in life that he would never have had before and he is succeeding."

Sam's Mum



PROGRESS AT BRIDGE HOUSE

| | At time of placement: September 2011 | September 2015 |
|--------------------------------|---|--|
| Diet | Sam arrived at Bridge House from a residential school with an extremely limited diet. He only ate ten items - and they were all processed foods. He was small for his age, thin and underweight. | It was very important that we encouraged Sam to eat fresh food. It was a very gradual process and we needed to be very patient. Today he eats everything - salads, vegetables, a roast dinner. His health has improved massively because of his diet. Sam takes part in the house menu choices. Burgers and sausages are always there on his list of choices, but he doesn't get them every day! |
| Family Contact | Sam hadn't been to the family home or seen his brother and sister for two years. Like many families, his extreme behaviour and lack of sleeping had impacted on his brother and sister and his parents had lost confidence. | We worked with Sam's family to introduce contact back at home. Our staff would go to the family home with Sam and everyone knew we could bring him back to Bridge House if things became too much. It was a slow and gradual process of building everyone's confidence back and Sam's behaviour there was fantastic. We could then slowly withdraw our support and now he goes home and sees the whole family and his grandparents who he hadn't seen for a long time. It's huge progress for Sam. |
| Activities | Sam was reluctant to try new activities. We were told he couldn't cope with crowds or noise. We built up his confidence using social picture stories about where he's going, who with, what would happen and coming back to Bridge House. | We have taken Sam out and about since he first arrived. Recently, he went to the Superhero's Convention at Sheffield University and absolutely loved it. Once upon a time, he would have stood outside and refused to go in. He's made a lot of progress. There were lots of exhibitions featuring Batman, Superman, Thunderbirds - real boys' stuff - and he absolutely loved it. It was crowded, busy and noisy but he coped perfectly. He's now choosing a lot of his own activities. |
| Accessing the Community | Sam struggled in social situations often becoming distressed and showing negative behaviour | Sam enjoys a wide variety of activities and outings, often choosing them himself. He engages well with new people in social settings and rarely shows any negative behaviour. |

LIFE AT BRIDGE HOUSE

Sam has a busy social life - both in term time and school holidays - and is able to make his own choices. He attends a weekly youth club, and loves going out on buses, trams and trains.

Bridge House conducts regular pupil surveys. These are Sam's answers to the Young Person's Questionnaire in June 2015:

| Question | Answer |
|---|--------------------------------|
| What does Sam think are the best things he has done in the past few months at Bridge House? | Drayton Manor Park |
| Does Sam think staff keep you safe and out of danger? | Yes |
| Does Sam like his bedroom? | Yes |
| What is Sam's favourite thing about his bedroom? | TV |
| Can Sam spend his pocket money on what he wants? | Yes - Toys R Us! |
| Does Sam see his family enough? | Yes. Home |
| What does Sam think of the food at Bridge House? | Food at Bridge House Yummy |
| Who can Sam talk to if he is unhappy? | Elaine, Sam, Matt, Lana, Jodie |
| What would Sam like to do in the summer holidays? | Kirklees Light Railway |
| Does Sam enjoy his Key working sessions? | Yes |
| Are Key working sessions helpful for Sam? | Yes |
| Does Sam like the other young people at Bridge House? | Yes |
| Is there anything else Sam would like to say? | Happy Yes |