

Huntercombe House Stockton

Ben's Story

“ My name is Ben and I am now 19 years old. I have severe dyspraxia and attention deficit disorder and I also have a learning disability and display some autistic traits. To help manage my symptoms which are like ADHD, I am prescribed medication that I need to take every day.

I have a family who love me very much but because of the behaviours I could display it was not safe for me to live at home with my Aunt. Sometimes I would lose control of my actions and hit out and kick my aunt as I was unable to regulate my mood and feelings. This was due to my condition.

I came to live at Huntercombe House Stockton when I was 14 years old and this is my story...

For the five years prior to me accessing Huntercombe House, I attended many different schools – eventually being sent off, out of my home county, to be a pupil at a specialist residential school. It was sad, that at such a young age I had exhausted so many different places because no one could cope with my complex and emotional needs.

Unfortunately, my residential school placement broke down and this meant that my social worker needed to find me somewhere to live – quickly! I came back to my home town and because I had nowhere else to go I moved back in with my aunt. This was not ideal and brought about its own difficulties but I needed to be kept safe. This quickly took its toll on my aunt and I as I would lash out at her, I would get really anxious and trash the house.

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Home quickly broke down and, as an emergency plan, some support workers from social services were sent to look after me and they took me on a holiday. This gave my social worker, my aunt and the other people involved with me some time to find me a placement somewhere.

My social worker telephoned lots of different places – many of which said that they couldn't meet my needs. My social worker then telephoned Huntercombe House in Stockton to see if they could offer me a placement with 2: 1 staffing support all of the time. Huntercombe House did an assessment and decided with my social worker and other professionals that they could offer me a placement.

Two days later I moved into Huntercombe House Stockton and met my keyworkers for the first time. Although the first two weeks had its challenges, I quickly settled into my new routines and life at Huntercombe. I got to know my keyworkers and they got to know me – really well !

Because of the time and effort my keyworkers put in to keeping me calm, episodes of challenging behaviour became less and less. After a short time, I started to engage in an education programme. This was a big step for me as I didn't really like school and my experience of school in the past had been stressful. Huntercombe worked hard with my social worker and the local authority's SEN team and arranged for a teacher from a local specialist school to come to Huntercombe House and deliver education to me there. My keyworkers supported me in my education.



Everybody was pleased with how much progress I was making at Huntercombe House Stockton and the quality of relationships I had with my keyworkers. My days were filled doing the things I like to do. I love buses and trains so we would often go bus spotting or trainspotting at different railway stations. We even visited the Eddie Stobart Depot which was really fun.

Everyone agreed that I should stay at Huntercombe House until I was ready to move on to adulthood. When I was 17 people were giving a lot of thought about where I will go to live as an adult. My keyworkers from Huntercombe and my social worker spent lots of time exploring options that may be available to me and I was lucky enough to be offered a flat within a specialist provision, near to where my family live.

The time came when I had to move out of Huntercombe House Stockton because I was too old to stay there. My keyworkers from Huntercombe House helped me make the move to my new flat and made sure that I settled in well. They continued to support me, alongside my adult team for three weeks after I moved in and spent lots of time training my new staff team – helping them to get to know me really well.

I have stayed in touch with my keyworker from Huntercombe House Stockton and I am still doing really well. My story shows how important it is to have stability and security in life and thanks to the stability that Huntercombe were able to provide me with, I am able to enjoy my adult life.



Contact Us

For more information on Huntercombe House Stockton and our services, please visit our website:

www.huntercombe.com/stockton

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The Huntercombe Group is one of the UK's leading independent specialist health care providers in the areas of Adult Mental Health, Specialist Brain Injury and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).