

INTRODUCTION

Lewis Duncan has been in the in the care of John Cameron since leaving residential care on 22-2-1999. This placement has been very positive for Lewis in most aspects of his life. Although school attendance continues to be an issue a significant improvement occurred during last term.

After a great deal of consideration John felt that he could no longer delay his return to Invernesshire. Although initially Lewis agreed to move with John he later changed his mind after considering his education options. despite realising the possible repercussions Lewis has shown maturity in his approach to the situation in which he was placed.

Lewis independently approached both John and Carrie to express his feelings and wishes regarding the change. Lewis feels his educational needs are best met within Kibble school, particularly the offer of one - one support offered by the teaching staff. He does not wish to attend any college courses at this time , but does not rule this out for the future. Lewis also enjoys the added ^{benefit of} ~~personal~~ support at home and within the community ^{that} of the Community Outreach and Support Service. ^{offers.}

To enable Lewis to continue his final term at Kibble School he will require to live with Mum and partner Hugh Tait and his younger brother Grant. To the writers knowledge all parties have agreed and no objection to the move have been raised by any individual involved in the process.

HOME

There have been no significant issues at home within the last six months to the writers knowledge. This is a result of the hard work and commitment of both John and Lewis.

Lewis admits that when he is angry or frustrated that he can become verbally abusive and aggressive. However, John and Lewis have negotiated strategies which they use to de-escalate this type of behaviour. During the initial meetings with Mum and Hugh

regarding the move the importance of maintaining a consistent approach with Lewis was stressed by the writer.

During the initial period of trial stays Lewis and Mum have both indicated that their have been no problems. Although it is early days it is hoped that all parties will adjust to the new family structure and routine.

COMMUNITY

Lewis has been maintaining a positive profile within the community and is gradually maturing to develop appropriate social behaviour. In the past Lewis has found it difficult to resist the pressure to follow peers in inappropriate behaviour particularly within the school setting.

Lewis admits to smoking hash but says he has reduced the number of times he does this. The C.O.S.S. project discusses the harmful effect of this action with Lewis on a regular basis.

SCHOOL

Last term Lewis sat four standard grade exams, we are eagerly awaiting the results. Despite a poor start to the year Lewis worked hard to improve and maintain his attendance.

Due to his date of birth Lewis will be eligible to leave school in December 2000. During the final term Lewis will be a member of the leavers unit. The work in the leavers unit focuses on preparing young people for the world of employment, ~~and~~ a number of practical work placements will be on offer.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND SUPPORT SERVICE (COSS)

Lewis has responded well and makes use of the support and structures offered ^{by} the COSS project. The writer has informed Mum and Hugh that regular communication is a vital part of Lewes's support package, they have both agreed to maintain commitment to the programme.

During the summer Lewis has attended weekly one day activities and a three day camp in Northumbria. Lewis has been a positive and enthusiastic member of the weekly group. On the recent camp Lewis supported a younger peer through his first camp, he was a very positive role model.

CONCLUSION

Mum and Hugh have been encouraged to maintain the current level of communication as a means to addressing any possible repercussions in what could be a stressful and difficult time for adults and young people alike.

I would recommend that the service provided by COSS would offer a continuum of support to Lewis and his family through the transitional period. COSS would continue to offer daily support if needed in school as well as providing individual support on issues at home and in the community.