

# CASE STUDY

## ALISTAIR'S STORY



Alistair is 12 and recently moved into the area. He sustained a traumatic brain injury when he was less than 12 months old. The family were referred to us via another VCS organisation.

We found the child has significant neurological impairments and associated health needs that had been untreated for many years. Dad was suffering from PTSD as a direct result of what happened to his child. Mum was under immense pressure.

We met the family at home and our Brain Injury Assessment identified numerous neurological deficits that the family were previously unaware of. During our conversation it also emerged that Alistair has visual problems related to the brain injury. We were able to explain Mum and Dad what had happened inside Alistair's head during the incident which helped them to understand and why new issues are emerging now. This had not been explained to them previously.

### Health

This information has enabled the family to have Alistair referred to an appropriate paediatrician who specialised in neuro-disability.

#### Outcome:

Alistair is now receiving medical treatment for issues, which were previously unknown and not treated. Alistair was also referred to Ophthalmology Services in their local hospital and is being regularly reviewed by a specialist paediatrician so that any ongoing vision issues will be addressed.

### Social Care

Alistair was not registered as a Child in Need with the local authority, so we worked with the Early Help Team to enable him to be referred to the Children with Disabilities Team. We support the family. Alistair is also socially excluded, has no friends and spends any free time with parents and other adults. We raised this with the local authority,

#### Outcome:

Alistair now has a direct payment and a package of support to facilitate his social inclusion and access to the community. His parents now receive Carers breaks.

### Education

Alistair has significant learning disabilities and has not met any of the expected development milestones. They had a SEN Statement which was being transferred to an EHC Plan. However, the



document had failed to acknowledge both the brain injury and the emerging health, sensory and SEN needs. We met with the school with Dad to help him to explain the child's needs. The professionals present were unaware of the issues we had identified and how they would significantly impact upon the child's ongoing development and his learning without specialist support. Interestingly the child's teacher felt A's problems all now made sense!

#### Outcome:

Alistair's EHC Plan now acknowledges his brain injury and his associated difficulties and we continue to ensure that any emerging brain injury issues are recognised, acknowledged and included.

### MATRIX Ongoing Interventions

#### Family

The family are also now receiving emotional support and regular visits from our Family Support Worker. Dad is now receiving treatment for PTSD and is receiving 1-1 practical support from us to help him move forward.

#### Alistair

Alistair also receives 3 x one-to-one sessions per week of Occupational Therapy for his physical problems as well as cognitive rehabilitation therapy and emotional support. **This is part-funded by BBC Children in Need and other grant funding; not the NHS.**

#### Family Views

*"We are so happy to have found this service. We are getting so much more help and support – more than we have had in 11 years. You are not only helping us, but you are helping our child."*

