

Good News Story – James



4 year old James tragically lost his mother suddenly following a spate of ill health leaving behind James and his two siblings. James’ father had never been in their lives.

Following the funeral the family convened a meeting to decide who was best placed to take care of the children to prevent them from entering into the care system. It was decided that their Great Uncle John would take care of them and he undertook this role with great care and enthusiasm.

The local Children’s Centre staff approached the uncle and told him about the Common Assessment Framework (CAF).

Despite being a bit nervous he agreed to doing an assessment with them. Using the CAF process John and the Children’s Centre decide they needed help with:

- Suitable Accommodation
- Benefits Entitlements
- Bereavement Support
- Guardianship Order so John could become the legal guardian of the children
- Health and Educational Support for James

The Children’s Centre called a meeting and invited different agencies to come and meet John and see what help they could offer. The action plan they drew up is below:

Children’s Centre Special Educational Needs Coordinator	- Made sure James’ was getting the right help with his learning and helped make sure he was ready for starting School.
Educational Psychologist	- The EP worked with the Children’s Centre to make sure James was ready for School and that the school would be able to offer the right support when James started.
Education Development Advisory Service - EDAS	- Went through all the benefits and housing options with John to make sure he was claiming everything he was entitled too.
Speech & Language Therapist	- Helped James develop his Language skills
Solicitor	- Helped John gain legal status as the Guardian of the children.
CAMHS Service	- Offered bereavement counselling to the family.
Barnardo’s Arch Project	- Helped John with his new role as a parent
Children’s Centre Manager	- Offered James’ siblings child care places in the nursery so they could meet and make friends with other children

John was really grateful to the Children’s Centre for encouraging him to engage with the CAF process and all the support they have offered. He said he felt happy that lots of people were involved to help and that they were all working together.

John said he had never heard of CAF before the Children’s Centre mentioned it and believes that if families were told of the benefits of CAF they would be interested.



Names and photographs have been changed – but this is a real case within Birmingham.