

MM is 22 years old and has autism and sensory processing difficulties. MM joined the Hub from a Special Educational Needs department in the local college where he received 1:1 support. When he arrived at the Hub he had no funding for 1:1 support.

MM demonstrated a lot of anxiety and challenging behavior, including throwing objects, continuous slamming of doors, trying to lock himself in the toilet or rooms, refusing to do activities, obsession with a female member of staff, etc. MM behavior was triggered by a wide variety of reasons, quite often to do with his home life where his parents had separated.

Things escalated with MM one day, when we believe he was triggered by another trainee screaming and he violently kicked a bin which hit one of our Work Coaches. The Work Coach sustained injuries and was for an initial four weeks followed by some further weeks of phased return with reduced hours.

We agreed with MM's parents that he needed a "cooling off" period before returning to the Hub. We could have excluded MM for his behavior but where else would he go? The Hub is also invaluable respite for his parents. We also do not "give up" on an individual.

Our Wellbeing Co-ordinator has subsequently worked alongside MM's parents. He has helped them to get therapy for MM. He has met MM and parents off-site to talk about his re-introduction to the Hub. In addition, he has put together a Behavior Contract which MM has signed up to and put together an Individual Support Plan for MM, with various techniques to reduce his anxiety.

As a result, MM is back attending the Hub, still without a 1:1 support worker. This means that he is not excluded, can enjoy the activities and his family get much-needed respite. The Wellbeing Co-ordinator is currently still supporting the family in trying to get 1:1 support and hopefully then increase his days at the Hub.