

Priory Hospital Hayes Grove – Keston unit



Patient story

Our daughter Hannah* was admitted to Priory Hospital Hayes Grove's Keston Unit in a desperate condition, and only days from losing her life.



She was suffering from severe depression and psychosis, combined with a late diagnosis of high functioning Asperger syndrome. She had been in the care of the local NHS mental health services for several years but her condition had continued to deteriorate.

We came across the Keston Unit almost by chance and had been advised they would probably be able to help Hannah. On the night she arrived at the unit she was non-verbal and in a psychotic state. They had pre-assessed Hannah and decided that they could help. Her admittance was the start of a two-year journey from near death to wellness and the ability to continue her studies. We should state that at the time of her crisis Hannah was a fourth year medical student.

From day one Hannah, and for the first time 'we' (her parents), were treated with great respect, courtesy and a determination to be helped. Hannah was put under the care of her consultant and this proved to be a turning point. As someone who understood autistic spectrum disorders, along with a highly dedicated and skilled team, he was able to get to the root of Hannah's condition – something previously never achieved or, in our view, attempted. We will always remember the

consultant telling us that he wanted to understand how Hannah had gone from being in the top 10% of her medical class, to where she found herself on arrival at the unit.

Through dedication, patience and excellent diagnosis, combined with extraordinary care from all the staff at the unit, including the non-clinical staff, Hannah began the road to recovery. After some two years, she emerged from the unit well enough to convince the 'medical fitness to practice board' that she could take up her medical studies again if she so wished.

Hannah has gone from strength to strength and, on the one occasion where she faltered (not an unusual event for cases like hers), the Keston Unit was there to help and aid her swift recovery to the previous level. Hannah is now back to the beautiful daughter and person that she was before her mental health crisis and we shall be forever grateful to the Keston Unit, the consultant and wider team, who not only made Hannah well again but helped us so much too.

Former patient's parents

*Patient name changed