

# Priory Hospital Church Village

## Patient story

Jane\* was referred to Church Village at the end of 2016 from a community placement, which had broken down as she had made many attempts to leave and put herself in vulnerable situations within the community. Staff were unable to manage her risk, and it was decided she needed a more secure environment out of the area she was in, with input from a wider multidisciplinary team.



Following admission under Section 3 of the Mental Health Act, Jane quickly developed close relationships with her peers. She made several attempts to develop close relationships with certain staff, searching for them on social media and asking for their personal details. She had little awareness of personal boundaries and what was appropriate behaviour. Although her risk to others was minimal, she presented as a risk to herself and at times self-harmed by ligating.

During discussion as a multidisciplinary team and through incident review processes, it was noted that incidents of self-harm occurred when appropriate relational boundaries were put in place. The psychologist spent time with Jane exploring this, and Jane admitted to feeling rejected by others when boundaries were put in place. After many years of abuse, she had difficulty recognising what was appropriate and struggled with feelings of rejection. The clinical team worked over the next few months to address these feelings, and supported ward staff to apply appropriate boundaries.

Jane had expressed interest in becoming a chef and wanted to go to college in order to achieve her dream. The occupational therapist made

contact with a local college who were very supportive towards those with learning disabilities. This resulted in the college enrolling Jane on a catering course with individual tutor support.

The hospital team stayed in close contact with Jane's commissioning team and social worker, and agreed together that when well enough, for her own safety, she needed to be stepped down to a community placement away from home.

Jane progressed well, and was discharged from her section. A decision was made that if she did try to leave the hospital, Deprivation of Liberty safeguards would be used to prevent her leaving. An application for a Standard Authorisation was granted, although never had to be used.

Jane progressed enough to be stepped down to a community placement, and started a three week transition plan after being at Church Village for eight months. The transition was successful and she moved to her new placement, excited about her future and looking forward to starting her catering course.

\*Name changed to protect identity