

May, a single mother with no support system was concerned her son Jake had become friends with people who were a bad influence on him. Jake has ADHD and his behaviour both in school and at home was poor. They had recently moved to a new area as May was keen for him to move schools and to find new friends.

Jake had run away twice and she had reported him missing. On both occasions he was found to have returned to his old friends. May was concerned that an older 'friend' was exploiting him for criminality to sell drugs. Jake was found in possession of cannabis and given a warning by the Police.

May contacted Direction for support and advocacy to assist with her situation. May explained that lots of people had tried to engage with Jake at school but that nobody had managed to get through to him.

May said Jake was better in a one to one situation rather than a group where he tended to show off and exhibit poor behaviour. After establishing her concerns, we discussed the options for Jake to engage in some positive activities to try and draw him away from the negative influences of his old friends.

Direction supported and empowered May and Jake to engage with a local youth service that provide mentoring and coaching to young people. The project focused on behaviour management, re-engaging with education, building positive relationships, and one to one mentoring.