

Alice and Robynn-Belle's Story

Aberlour Family Service South Ayrshire

November 2017





Alice and her daughter received help from Aberlour Family Service South Ayrshire in 2016. Alice was in a car accident as a child and had a permanent brain injury which made it difficult for her to remember everyday things. The service helps parents with learning disabilities to provide the best care for their children. The team carries out regular visits to family homes to ensure children are thriving and being well looked-after.

Alice's Background

Robynn-Belle was born Christmas day 2015, by that time Social Work were already involved, thinking that I couldn't handle taking care of her. I first met the social work two days before she was born and at that time I was told there would be a lot of involvement from them and others because they thought I wouldn't take care of Robynn-Belle to the best of my ability which I hadn't even had the chance to parent her and prove that I could take care of her.

When I got out of hospital on the 27th of December I moved in with my Mum for some support in getting used to being a parent. It was stressful because Robynn-Belle wouldn't settle for her Dad, only with me so I didn't get much sleep the first few nights but I managed with the help of my parents. I loved staying with my parents but my partner at the time did not and that caused a lot of stress and eventually I

moved back into my house with him and Robynn.

Alice's Journey

The social work didn't like this decision so they were out nearly every day and they introduced us to Aberlour and had them come out twice a week and because I was the main carer for Robynn even though my partner stayed with us the house work got done but very slowly, by me. At that point when people saw this the social work asked Aberlour to do a PAM's Assessment.

When Aberlour told us they had to do a PAM's assessment it stressed me out even more than I was because I couldn't concentrate on the questions they were asking me while trying to feed or play with Robynn-Belle. I found it very hard to cope because in my mind they had already judged me as a bad parent. In the end, it took 3 months to complete the PAM's Assessment.

With all this going on it put a big strain on my relationship with my partner and all the stress of him not liking people in the house and blaming it all on me was very hard to deal with and in the end I couldn't deal with him anymore blaming me for everything that I kicked him out after an argument went bad. As a result of him leaving the social work had less trust in me raising my daughter that they made me move back with my Mum and Dad. Now, even after I moved back in with them, they had Aberlour and Outreach invade their home and their lives. Because I stayed there, this put a massive strain on me as I didn't want to put my parents under pressure for something to do with me.

About a month into living with my Mum the stress I was under was so overwhelming. I was not understanding what people were saying to me. I couldn't voice what I really wanted to. One, because I would stumble over my words under stress and two, if I said anything it would be turned and twisted into something else and would put me in more trouble. This came to a head when my social worker came out to see me. Robynn was trying to settle and the social worker wasn't taking anything I said seriously like how much stress I was under and when my parents came home she quickly got up and left me sitting confused and stressed. The social worker stood outside speaking with my parents for over half an hour then left and when my parents came in they were very angry with me because of what the social worker said and I tried to explain that she misunderstood me but I couldn't say it properly and an argument started and me and my Mum were shouting at each other which was very upsetting since my Mum and I never argue and we always understand each other but that day we were on two different pages and it was really upsetting me so I put Robynn-Belle down with her toys, told my Dad when her next feed was and left the house.

When I left I went down to the beach and thought that if my Mum, the one person who understood me thinks I'm a liar and hates me, what's the point of being LIVE anymore and I did a stupid thing. I thought about Robynn-Belle and how I couldn't leave her alone in the world so I phoned an ambulance and got taken to the



hospital where they did some tests but said I wouldn't have to stay in and while I was sitting waiting the social worker phoned and said they would have to take Robynn for the weekend and although opposed to the idea I agreed as long as it was only the weekend and I would have her back on Monday but when Monday came, although me and my Mum were alright again the social

work said that Robynn had to stay in foster care for the foreseeable future and although I was very upset and wanted her home there was nothing I could do to stop the social workers and that's when my year and a half contact began and trying to prove I could parent Robynn properly. I moved back home and tried to get my house in order and tried to get my life back on track to have Robynn back home with me but this didn't happen until a year and a half later and a new social worker.

Alice's Future Plans

I was seeing Robynn for two hours, twice a week for months on end and it was the beginning of this year a new social worker came in and took over and also new staff came in for Aberlour and that made such a difference to my contacts and when the new social worker saw what a difference Aberlour was making to my contacts and how well I was doing with Robynn he decided to start a Rehabilitation Plan to get Robynn back into my care. As well as Aberlour making a big difference to my contacts, an O.T came in to help me get on track properly at home, so with everyone's help I was able to make a chore board to help me keep on top of everything plus a board for different ideas of meals to give myself and Robynn and these have made a massive difference in my day to day life and caring for Robynn.

Contacts got increased in the summer of this year and it got increased very quickly but I managed with the help of Aberlour and the ILS team. At the start Robynn was very confused about the change in her home life but I managed to keep a routine to make it easier for her and contacts got increased more and more and now I have her most of the week apart for one night but that is changing in November. Aberlour still has a big part in my life but it's not unwanted.

I have met new parents and made good friends through the groups I attend with Aberlour and learned some new skills on parenting for now and when Robynn gets older. It's great having Robynn back and I wouldn't have managed without

Aberlour.



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