



John's story

Leonards Croft case study

John* had lived in a secure hospital for over 40 years, before transitioning to Leonards Croft.

When John arrived at Leonards Croft, his communication skills were very limited. He had only 20 words in his vocabulary and at times, the words spoken did not relate to the needs John required meeting. The frustration he felt at this led to him presenting behaviours that challenged him and those around him.

Working together to provide a successful transition

The transition period for John moving into Leonards Croft was four weeks, with our staff visiting the hospital and working closely alongside their staff team, who knew him well. We also contacted the Intensive Support Team (IST) before transitioning started to ensure they came to all of the meetings and were aware of John moving back into their area. The IST would ensure that both Leonards Croft staff and John were supported in the community.

During the transition process, we also worked closely with John's new community nurse and the community team to ensure everything was in place and ready for John moving into the service. The community speech and language therapist came to Leonards Croft and provided communication training for all of the staff team, which was specific to John.



Achieving positive outcomes at Leonards Croft

When John moved into Leonards Croft, there were many things that he would refuse to do. These included:

- Leaving the house
- Activities in the community
- Taking part in activities in the home
- Tending to his personal care
- Trying new things
- Tolerating changes to routine/rituals

With close support from the local community team, and the dedication of our staff team at Leonards Croft, we have supported John in making a real difference to his life.

The positive outcomes achieved by John over the last 12 months include:

- John's speech has moved on from 20 to over 120 words, and he is learning new words every day
- John is now putting full sentences together to make his wants and needs known
- John will use staff members' names to ask for who he wants to work with him
- John has shown growth in expressing his own personality, through spoken words and singing
- John now takes part in activities both in and out of the home, and will tell staff what he wants to do. He often chooses the seaside
- John will accept new ideas from the staff team and will make simple choices
- John showers every day and takes pride in his appearance. He is often heard telling staff that he is a 'smart man'

- When John moved to the service, his routine was fixed with 2:1 support, but this has now been reduced to 1:1 support
- During his routines, John would not tolerate any change but can now rationalise with explanation and accepts slight changes with no heightened anxieties
- John now has a 20 minute longer tolerance to waiting, giving him more choices as to how he spends his time
- John will now take part in more daily living tasks, including making his meals, making his bed, helping the staff keep his environment clean and doing his shopping
- John only previously watched 2 programmes when he moved to Leonards Croft. Now he watches a wide range of things and will also ask staff to put on what he wants to watch
- John will attend medical appointments and will tolerate his blood being taken
- Incidents of challenging behaviour have reduced dramatically and this appears to be due to John's increased ability to rationalise

This improvement in John's quality of life has been achieved by working together with the local community teams, his family and the people who knew John well throughout the transition.

Our staff team ensured they were fully prepared for John's move to Leonards Croft by sharing information with other agencies such as the IST. By working effectively with others, they ensured that every eventuality was thought of and contingencies were put in place. At Leonards Croft, we are delighted with the progress John has made and the positive outcomes he is achieving.

Contact us today

To find out more about Leonards Croft and the services we offer for adults with autistic spectrum disorders and associated complex needs:

Call us on

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Send an email to

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Visit our website at

www.prioryadultcare.co.uk