

## **June 2017 Trust Board – Sandra’s story**

This month’s patient story was told by Sandra who (along with her husband) was a long-term foster carer for two young children. The children were allocated a separate named Looked After Children’s (LAC) nurse and Sandra spoke of her experience of being a foster carer and explained her experience of using the Trust’s LAC service.

Sandra highlighted that one child had been placed with her four years ago and, at the time, had disliked school and could not read. She was now enjoying school and reading. The other child had severe specialist needs and required 24 hour care, resulting in Sandra receiving very little sleep. The LAC nurses ensured health assessments and reviews were undertaken for the children and that they received the health support needed. The nurses had provided Sandra with advice and help which had made a positive difference to the lives of both Sandra, her husband and the two young children.

The following key points were highlighted during the Trust Board discussion:

- Foster caring was very different to being a parent and required the setting and rigid application of boundaries in order to be effective;
- Whilst the LAC service was commissioned to undertake one visit per year, additional visits were undertaken if required;
- The LAC nurses were part of the ‘team around the child’ which meant they worked closely with social workers and Independent Reviewing officers;
- The 0-19 year old pathway was being reviewed to identify how duplication of effort (in terms of the number of professionals involved in a child’s care) could be reduced;
- Dawn believed the service provided by the LAC team could be extended in view of the vast amount of knowledge, experience and qualifications held by the team; and
- The Board believed it would be beneficial to receive data about the number and ethnicity of looked after children in Bradford.

The Board thanked Sandra for sharing her story and the Looked After Children’s team for the work they undertook.