

TRUST BOARD STORY

May 2018

John, Patient
Christal Leaper, Principal Dental Nurse
Anne-Marie Dorrington, Service Manager

JOHN'S BACKGROUND

John has autism and learning disabilities. He has accessed shared care through his General Dental Practitioner and the Community Dental Service from the age of 9.

THE STORY

John has accessed dental treatment through the Community Dental Service from the age of 9. However he has always had to have a general anaesthetic in the hospital setting, to complete his treatment. At the age of 21 John was referred for a general anaesthetic for his dental treatment, but both John and his Mum found this experience quite distressing.

At the beginning of 2018 John was referred again for a general anaesthetic, however one of our clinicians offered an alternative treatment option. This was intravenous sedation within the dental surgery setting. This would mean John would have to attend a number of appointments to complete his treatment rather than the one visit in the hospital setting. The risks and benefits were explained to Mum and they agreed to go ahead with this treatment.

John has successfully completed treatment in the dental chair with intravenous sedation, with no requirement for a general anaesthetic which is a fantastic achievement for both John and the dental team.