Think Local Act Personal Case Story

*Just before the March lockdown, a young man that we have been supporting for the past many years including his transition from children to adult services, found himself at the cusp of the most important and challenging transition of his life to independent living. The lockdown was completely unexpected and ran the risk of derailing this transition to independent living which had till then taken a long period of time supported by a number of MDT professionals. As the lockdown was announced this young man and his support team found themselves in an extremely challenging position with immediate planning required around day to day living matters as well as urgent arrangements that needed to be made to ensure that all MDT appointments with the various professionals could go ahead.*

*The team at Acute Need took it upon themselves to set up several alternatives using all ICT resources at their disposal to enable this young man to engage with all MDT professionals remotely and keep all his appointments supported by Acute Need staff. This included, amongst other professionals, appointments with a Neuro Psychologist to help this young man deal with the different challenges he was facing including those created as a result of the covid crisis.*

*Following brain storming sessions in how to deal with the challenges faced, a number of checklists were developed working with the young person including training and guidance in how to utilise and access online resources and video conferencing platforms safely with appropriate guidance. Also the young person felt that social stories and visual prompts would be helpful in providing a frame of reference whilst at the same time serving as a memory prompt. The young person, with input from MDT professionals and the Acute Need team, was able to develop strategies around visual prompts to aid with memory and recall including using photos/videos of activities and events he had previously engaged with as a point of reference for him to be built over time. This also enabled the young person to engage in tasks such as creating simple social stories using these photos/videos in an attempt to better express himself in social situations. Also checklists for visual reference and memory prompts around key areas. This has also helped lay the foundation for more productive systems including a shared diary system for appointments and activities.*

*This new infrastructure has worked so well that it has now been incorporated more permanently into future plans as per the wishes of the young person supported by MDT professionals. Furthermore, where necessary, arrangements were made for appointments to take place in a safe and secure way at Acute Need offices including further arrangements made for meals and maintaining personal hygiene. The young person was and continues to be kept fully involved and empowered as the main stakeholder over planning around all key areas. We are very proud to say that this young person is now making his transition to independent living.*

*Having ensured stability around these key areas, Acute Need was able to continue the shift of focus from the medical model of care to the social model of care for this young person using technology to connect with new hobbies and areas of interest such as RC cars and fishing by calling upon the experiences of other service users as role models and mentors which has been extremely helpful for this young person.*