

NOMINATION DETAILS

Who is being nominated?

Individual

Please provide the name of the person being nominated:

Anthony Miller

Job title:

Social Worker

Organisation:

East Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership

AWARD DETAILS

Which category are you entering?

Category 5: The Courage to Take a Risk

Please confirm that the work carried out relates to the last two years (up to January 2018):

Yes

Q1. Overview: (max 200 words)

Anthony Miller is a Social Worker with East Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership. Previously a Police Officer, Anthony retrained as a Social Worker as he recognised the inequalities that children, young people and their families face and has a passion to work with individuals, families and communities to make a positive difference.

Anthony works with many children and families to empower them to make positive changes in their lives and minimise the risk of harm. His relationship, approach and commitment with 'B' a 17 year old young man who has faced significant sexual abuse and trauma as a child is what makes him stand out.

Anthony, with the support of our Thinking Differently Peer Mentor Team has worked alongside 'B' to empower him to play a lead role in planning his life after leaving Secure Accommodation and design a be-spoke personalised supports to work towards making this happen.

'B' has a range of complex needs including ADHD, Post-Traumatic Stress and Attachment Disorder and whilst vulnerable himself, can also at times pose a risk to others. Anthony has built a strong relationship with 'B', his family and the team around the young person to 'think differently' about risk.

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Q2. What did you do? (max 500 words)

Person Centred V's Service Led

Anthony as Lead Professional supported 'B' to be fully involved in planning his future through planning meetings which started before he left secure accommodation. 'B' was empowered to decide where the meetings were held, who attended alongside making 'B's favourite food and drink available to help him feel relaxed. The meetings were also held in the evenings to accommodate 'B's sister who worked during the day. 'B' wished to return to East Ayrshire, to a tenancy with personalised supports. 'B' and the people who know him best helped continued with weekly meetings in recognition of the need for dynamic care and risk management. Each week we focused on 'What was working well?' 'What wasn't working well?' which informed the risk management plan.

Technology Enabled Care

TEC is predominately used across Scotland to work with older people to support them to live at home longer. Anthony (supported by the Thinking Differently Peer Mentors) embraced the concept of using innovative technological solutions to support 'B'. His relationship and approach with 'B' was key to explaining the options available to 'B' who was excited about using technology to keep him safe and slowly build independence. A door monitor (with a panic button) was installed to provide re-assurance and extra support to 'gate keep' within his home. A wrist worn GPS device (with panic button) was also provided to support 'B' to build his independence travelling within the locality and spending time with friends whilst giving his support staff access to his whereabouts. The GPS device safe zone option allowed 'B' to independently travel and visit friends with safe areas and also provided him with a verbal reminder prompt should he travel towards areas agreed as unsafe zones i.e. the local bus station.

Relationships, Creativity and Commitment

It's not been plain sailing over the past year for 'B' with a number of arrests and a return to secure accommodation at one point. In other words ...it's been real life. Despite this, Anthony embraced creative solutions to risk management and demonstrated real commitment to 'B'. There is a real warmth and paternal quality to Anthony; he embodies the role of 'Corporate Parent' and has shown a real 'stickability' to what's important to 'B' no matter how small this may seem in the wider context of risk. Anthony's approach and relationship with 'B' has meant that he attended and contributed to every weekly planning meeting and as such was empowered to be fully involved alongside the multi-agency team to manage risk.

Risk Enablement

He has used a strength based approach to risk using technology enabled care and creative solutions to help 'B' to minimise the risk of harm to himself and to others.

Anthony has been unshakable in his commitment to 'B' and has worked alongside the Police, Court System and Housing to help them see 'B's' strengths and to better understand the impact adverse childhood experiences on his ability to process information, make choices and regulate his emotions and behaviour.

SSSA Entry Form 2018 :

Q3. What did you achieve? (max 500 words)

Anthony Miller has supported 'B' to move successfully from Secure Accommodation to his home in East Ayrshire based on 'B's wishes and at times even when the multi-agency team did not share this vision or belief that this was possible. 'B' is a young man who has faced significant abuse, adversity and trauma in his early childhood as had been accommodated since aged 7 years old. Anthony has not been phased by this and has been an excellent role model to other Social Service Workers in terms of his personal qualities, his values, his skills and the relationship based and risk enablement approach he used in his work with 'B'

This piece of work has most definitely been a journey, for 'B' himself, for Anthony as lead professional and for all of the multi-agency team involved. However, as a result of Anthony's commitment and relationship with 'B' and key partners 'B' has been supported to live back in East Ayrshire for 7 months. During this time he has secured voluntary employment, made new friends and tried new experiences. Most notably 'B' also won a National Art Award and had his Art displayed in the Supreme Court in London.

When the risks of harm to 'B' or others increased Anthony was open to creative solutions and used his relationship and commitment to 'B' to design creative and personalised risk management solutions. One example of this was in September 2017 when the risk of harm to 'B' from a hostile section of the community increased significantly. The multi-agency team proposed a return to residential care for 'B' to remove him from harm. Anthony, informed by 'B's wishes designed a solution where 'B' was supported to go on a weeklong caravan holiday with support staff who knew him well and within geographical proximity to facilitate continued contact with David's girlfriend and family. During this time Anthony worked tirelessly with the police, housing and local community to support them to better understand 'B' and minimise risk of harm when he returned. He has used a strength based approach to thinking about risk using technology enabled care and a range of creative ways to help 'B' to minimise the risk of harm to himself and to others.

Anthony has been unshakable in his commitment to 'B' and has worked alongside colleagues in the Police, Court System and Housing to help them see 'B's' strengths and to better understand the impact of his adverse childhood experiences on his ability to process information, make choices and regulate his emotions and behaviour

Q4. Why should you receive an award? (max 100 words)

Anthony is modest and doesn't seek praise and recognition for doing a job he enjoys. East Ayrshire HSCP however would like to nominate Anthony to say thank you for truly undertaking the role of Corporate Parent and for having the courage to think differently and creatively about risk.

Anthony is an amazing social worker who embodies core social work values of empowerment, empathy and relationships like other Social Workers throughout Scotland.

Perhaps the best 'B' reason Anthony deserved an award is what B says about Anthony..... He 'listens to me, believes me no matter what and who just gets me'

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