

Name of project: Deaf Domestic Abuse Service

Lead Partner: Signhealth

Borough: Kingston Upon Thames

A young deaf man Matthewⁱ has experienced domestic abuse from his mother all his life. His mother controlled him including withholding his passport, ID and any benefit documents. She's also got Power of Attorney even though Matthew is capable of living and managing independently. He lives alone, but his mother has a key to his property and will interrupt whenever she chooses.

When he put a chain on the door, she threatened Matthew by saying she would call the police. He then received a complaint from Neighbourhood Safety due to noise in the flat. As he lives alone and doesn't make any noise it must have been when his mother approached the flat. She attends all appointments with him and says she's acting as an interpreter. He had an assessment where he received a diagnosis of schizophrenia when he was young, but he is still capable of life skills and having a part time job. His mother still controls how much money he is given from his own benefit payments. His mother uses his mobility car without his consent while she has Power of Attorney in place to control his benefits.

He's experienced threatening behaviour from his mother so much so that Matthew finds it hard to live his life.

His friend referred him to our service and he receives support from an IDVA. He feels relieved and feels like he finally has a voice. He gets support from deaf professionals which he's never had before because of his mother's controlling. The IDVA referred his case to MARAC in Kingston Upon Thames. It was signposted to safeguarding and the adult social care service. The IDVA supported him to report this to the police. There has been a delay due to lack of interpreters.

Matthew now has a better understanding of domestic abuse and is being assertive with his mother when he receives support from his IDVA. This support is still ongoing. He's receiving emotional support, signposting to appropriate services and engaging with other professionals who are involved in the case to support Matthew.

With professional's involvement to make it happened for Matthew which he managed to changed his lock & letterbox which his mother can't access anymore by the council. He is on the process to remove his mother from Power of Attorney.

ⁱ Name changed