

## Rafiq's story

**Rafiq is in Year 10. He is in a special school due to his severe learning difficulties. His family also get some respite support from the council.**

The school have been increasing the amount of support Rafiq receives over the last year but his behaviour is now starting to become too much to manage at school and at home. Without something different happening it is likely that Rafiq will have to go to a more specialist school outside Gloucestershire.

The Head Teacher has arranged a meeting with all professionals who are working with Rafiq in school and at home. This makes sure everyone understands what is happening for Rafiq. His Teaching Assistant has the best relationship with Rafiq so it is agreed that she will meet with him and his family to find out what would make the biggest difference for them and what Rafiq enjoys doing most. She finds out that Rafiq loves animals and hopes to work with horses one day. He finds that easier than talking to other people his age. His parents feel they need a calmer home for their other children and to spend more time with them but they want Rafiq to be in his community.

A team of people work with the family. The school arranges a work placement with a local stable which Rafiq also goes to some weekends to look after the horses. Rafiq is supported to go to a local music group one evening of the week. The family create a space downstairs in their house where Rafiq can go for some quiet time.

Rafiq is starting to respond positively to the new activities and this is reducing his anxiety at other times. His family feel more able to cope with his behaviour when it does happen. Both school and family say that they feel more able to support Rafiq.

