



Client Feedback

Heather's Story

Heather is twenty-five years old.

Heather had her first child removed and he is in the care of her mother. At that point in her life Heather admits to having had problems with alcohol misuse and keeping company with unsuitable people and subsequently her mental health declined severely.

As a consequence of this, the relationship with her own mother broke down and she did not see her son for a while. When Heather found herself pregnant with a second baby, she was informed before she gave birth that the baby would be placed into care, and ultimately, for adoption.

Heather reports of the most horrendous few days after the birth of a second son, where she had to report to the family court whilst still recovering from the birth. However, what was different this time was that she was determined that she would not fight the system, and she would work with Social Services and the courts. She had made her mind up that this second son was not going to be adopted out, despite the warnings that this was a very distinct possibility.

Heather had already begun to work on building up the relationship with her mother by this stage and was seeing her elder son on a regular basis.

The baby was placed in foster care for a while, but Heather remained stoic in her belief that before his first birthday in March 2018, that he would be returned home to her. Heather then began to work with Motherwell who supported her on her journey. Heather worked extremely hard to demonstrate that she had turned her life around. She reported that she "wanted to show everyone that I have changed". She stopped drinking, cut off all contact

with unsuitable people, continued to see her mum and elder son, committed herself to attending meetings with the relevant authorities and engaging with the Motherwell.

Heather was rewarded for her fantastic work by the return of her second son in November 2017. Since then, Heather has continued to flourish and grow as a mum. Her son is very happy and healthy. When asked if she felt that the work of the Believe project had enabled her to move forward positively, she was very emphatic in her reply: "Oh, most definitely! Without the Believe project, I would not be where I am today".