



Client Feedback

Zoe's Story

Zoe is a 26-year-old lady.

5 years ago, she was in a very controlling and abusive relationship. At the time Zoe was unable to recognise this and when she fell pregnant she did not take the advice or work with professionals from Children's Social Care. Her unborn child was made subject of a Child Protection Plan and pre-proceedings were issued.

Unfortunately, Zoe was still under the control of her abusive partner and did not heed the warnings from CSC that she was at risk of losing her unborn child. Zoe finally ended the relationship, but her ex-partner still found ways to control and manipulate her. When her son was born it was decided in court that he should be put into the care of Zoe's older sister. Zoe had supervised contact with her newborn son whilst parenting assessments were completed. Zoe's sister then fell pregnant and couldn't look after Zoe's son long term. In court it was decided that the baby should be adopted.

Zoe was devastated and wished that she had been strong enough to have left her ex-partner when she had been told to. Zoe met the adoptive parents of her son. She says this was the hardest thing she's ever done. But, in a strange way, it has brought so much comfort and closure being able to picture her son with his new parents. The adoption arrangements were for Zoe to have letterbox contact annually with her son and his new parents. Following the adoption Zoe moved to Cheshire with some of her family in the hope of a fresh start. Zoe went to college and trained as a beautician.

When Zoe fell pregnant earlier this year after a short relationship with a new partner she was determined to work with CSC. The relationship with the baby's father ended early in the pregnancy - complicating the situation even further. Zoe was referred to Motherwell by her midwife. At her initial contact meeting Zoe she said that she felt she would benefit from advocacy in all meetings as she often feels overwhelmed and can't always understand what is being said, she said she would also like support securing her own flat, she also wanted help writing her letter to her adopted son as she had not written for over a year. Since the first meeting with her social worker she has been open and honest to try to ensure that her new baby would be able to stay in her care. Throughout the remainder of the pregnancy Zoe has kept every appointment and has engaged with all the professionals involved. 3 weeks ago, Zoe gave birth to her second baby boy.

Because she has worked well with CSC and has been open and honest with all professionals and is showing that her baby's welfare is the most important thing for her to concentrate on Zoe has brought her baby home. Zoe accepts that she is still under the supervision of her social worker and that she has got to prove that she can maintain and sustain the positive changes she's made in her life since her first child was adopted. The future for Zoe and her new baby is looking very positive. Zoe recognises and accepts that her first child was adopted because she was unable to provide him with a safe and stable home and she is determined not to make the same mistakes again with her new baby.