

Appendix 4

What is a good outcome? Sophie's story

- Sophie is a young woman who came to the attention of the OOHC team in 2022;
- There was severe trauma present - Sophie was the victim of historic and current sexual abuse and serious physical violence;
- Sophie was 6 months' pregnant, with several children already in care, was drinking heavily and injecting heroin into her neck and groin. Sophie was also wanted by police for assault;
- There was a high risk to the life of both mother and child;
- The OOHC team led an integrated, system-wide response of flexible, intensive and sustained support, working with partners in Children's Social Care, Turning Point, Homeless Oxfordshire, Police, Probation, Hospital and Mental Health to coordinate efforts;
- Thorough consideration was given to all legal frameworks – Protection of child vs Promotion of rights and autonomy;
- Sophie's baby born in hospital without complications and placed with Sophie's sister rather than going into care;
- With support from OOHC team and partners, Sophie has:
 - Re-connected with her family
 - Regular contact and is bonding with her child
 - Been clean from substances for around 4 months
 - Continues to engage with the OOHC Step Up team
 - Started in training and is looking to join a college course
 - Been accepted for her own flat with Housing First

Following on from their recently published 'The Unhealthy State of Homelessness', the above case study was used by Homeless Link as an example of good practice around developing new ways to improve the health outcomes of vulnerable people.

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