Case study five: Vignette

Michelle and Joel live in a city. They have been married for 45 years and have two sons, Clinton in Scotland and Daniel, who is 34 and lives with them. Daniel has a learning disability. Michelle gave up work when Daniel was 16 to support him. Joel retired three years ago. Over the years they have sought support through the council but it has never worked very well.

Daniel volunteers at a local charity a few days a week, helping with teas and coffees. He would like to live independently. Joel and Michelle are worried this won’t work. Daniel is well known in the local community. He is also known to the police due to a few incidents where he has been violent. Daniel is often misunderstood as it is not immediately clear that he has a learning disability, and people who don’t know him can react to his behaviour. Daniel has some friends from volunteering and some other friends from the local area.

Michelle and Joel support Daniel to ensure he is washed and dressed appropriately, has had his medication and knows where he needs to be. Sometimes Daniel refuses his medication. Daniel has a mobile phone which he is able to make and receive calls on. Sometimes Michelle drives Daniel and sometimes they take him to the bus. Daniel has his own money but it is not clear what he is spending it on. Michelle and Joel are concerned that Daniel may be giving money to his friends.

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Joel and Michelle love their son, however they are exhausted and feel undervalued by providing his care. They have had to make choices to put Daniel first, have few friends and rely on each other. Joel had a heart attack last year and they are fearful about what will happen with Daniel in the future. Before children, Michelle and Joel were keen music fans.

Michelle and Joel recently rang the council and asked for someone to talk to them about their situation. You have been out to visit them and met Daniel briefly. You have completed the assessment and the support plan. Daniel has agreed to an assessment which will happen soon.