



Sarah's Journey

The true story of a domestic violence survivor, and what could have been

-  What actually happened
-  What could have happened without any intervention

She feels isolated and unable to cope alone, so, hopeful he will change, she returns. Instead the abuse intensifies.

He starts to abuse the children, so she asks him to leave.

They met in 1996 and married in 1999.

The abuse starts gradually. He is first physically violent when she is pregnant.

Her son is diagnosed with autism as a toddler. Later they go on to have twins.

She calls the police regularly about the violence, who always call social services. He isn't charged as she defends him, out of fear.

20 callouts:
£40,000

After two more years the children are taken into care. Sarah never feels supported to leave.

None of the children are adopted because of their age and complex needs. All stay in care until age 18.

She visits a drop-in run by her local domestic violence service. They see she is at high-risk, and insist social services open a case.

All three children have emotional difficulties and special educational needs (SEN) and the two youngest twins (age 3) cannot yet speak.

SEN 2 yrs:
£12,715
1 year

group work
for her:
£60

child support
therapy:
£540

The domestic violence service supports her, and a pre-school supports the children.

care / year:
£35,624
(x3 until age 18)

older son -
SEN, housing,
prison:
£1,466,982

The oldest son moves straight from care into residential support for adults with learning disabilities. Violent outbursts lead to a prison sentence for GBH.

drop-in:
£305

He makes threats to kill her, and a MARAC is convened. No mental health support is provided for her or her children.

MARAC:
£11,900

All three children's behaviour improves, and the youngest two no longer require special educational support at school.

fare:
£78,235

One twin develops mental health problems, including self harm. The other twin is aggressive, violent and a regular truant. As young adults they become locked in the criminal justice system.

fare:
£5,092,330

twin 1 - SEN
& mental health:
£1,124,340

twin 2 - SEN
& offences:
£1,142,920


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