

## **TRANSCRIPT: Support**

Alison, Jade's mother

Support for children like ours is very difficult because professionals who provide the support, struggle to understand what our issues are, because they will see a child who looks quite bright and who can talk and they are used to seeing children who are obviously disabled, and the training's not out there and the understanding.

When we first came to this area, we were accepted for a shared care respite but that broke down almost immediately because the foster carers couldn't do the things that we did and they weren't paid enough to put up with what we had to put up with and so they didn't want the children back, and that's really sad.

And we've tried and tried to get support, and we've just been told by the social services that Jade doesn't fulfil the criteria for the Children and Disabilities Team and we won't be getting any funding for any respite. So, how you can have a child that's probably got twelve different diagnoses and needs support 24/7, 365, to be told that you can't get that, because she's not disabled enough? Well how much more disabled does a child need to be to be able to qualify to receive services, really?

Our support comes from each other. We've got a very, very strong marriage and we do get emotional support from friends and from family, but the support isn't out there.