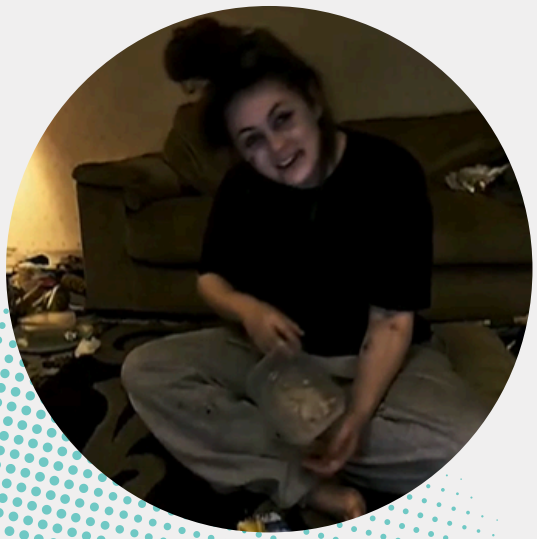
Jodie's Life Journey

Her Life at a Glance







cornerstone
life changing VR innovation

Jodie was born to a single mother Sharon who has schizophrenia and alcohol problems. Sharon did not know who Jodie's father was and did not have any subsequent relationships. When stable on her medication and drinking less Sharon was able to care for Jodie at home. Sharon also had the support of her mother who lived close by. Jodie's grandmother was very close to Jodie, often looking after her at weekends. popping by often to see her and Sharon. Sharon could be inconsistent in looking after Jodie at times neglecting her care but able to have fun and provide warmth when well.

When Jodie started school they realised that she had some mild learning difficulties. This meant that Jodie did not always understand as well as her peers and was later in her emotional and cognitive and social development. Jodie enjoyed looking after younger children at school and was good with them. Jodie was well liked by the school and enjoyed the routine and school atmosphere. If Sharon could not pick her up her grandmother was always available to do so.

When Jodie was 9 her grandmother died. This was very sad for both her and Sharon. Sharon missed her mother's emotional and practical support leading to a decline in her mental health and resulting in her drinking more. Due to this she often forgot to cook for Jodie, to ensure she was washed and went to bed on time. This also meant that she was not often able to spend time with Jodie due to her mental health and drinking.

School noticed that Jodie did not appear as happy as she once was, her clothes were often dirty and smelly. She also appeared to be very hungry on occasion. Eventually Jodie was referred to social services. Sharon loved Jodie and tried hard to change her parenting but was unable to do so. Initially Jodie went into foster care with a high level of contact. Sharon was angry that another family was looking after her daughter and due to her schizophrenia did not trust the foster carers. Jodie was moved to a children's home when she was 10 and a half.



The children's home was a long way from the area where Jodie had grown up and meant she had to change schools. Jodie struggled to fit in at her new large school with no one she knew. She felt very lonely. At the children's home Jodie met Charlie when he came for an emergency placement.

They stayed in touch and began seeing one another. Charlie also began drug dealing and encouraged Jodie to take drugs with him. Jodie became pregnant with Joe and moved into Charlie's council flat. Jodie and Charlie loved Joe very much and tried hard to care for him.

When Joe was 9 months old Charlie went into prison, leaving Jodie to cope on her own which was very difficult for her. Things were difficult when Charlie came out of prison, they had money worries and were arguing. Eventually a neighbour called social services to complain about the noise and the crying baby. Joe was taken into foster care at 18 months old.

Jodie and Charlie stayed together but Charlie was drug dealing again to make money. He went to prison again. Jodie found it hard on her own and at first she enjoyed the attention she received from men who offered to buy her presents and alcohol. Jodie became pregnant again.

When Charlie came out of prison they were reunited and tried to bring the new baby Rayleigh up together. The situation was hard with little money, Charlie was angry that the baby was not his and the baby was hard to soothe. Social services became involved once more and the baby Rayleigh was taken into a foster to adopt placement.

