



CASE STUDY 2: FELIX

Read the case scenario

Felix is 16 years old and a looked after child, currently living in a foster placement. He was brought into the care of the local authority after he came out to his birth parents as transgender (female to male FTM). Felix signed his own section 20 agreement to come into care without the approval of his parents.

Felix's parents, Margret and Simon, do not accept Felix's gender identity and are very angry with social services for 'taking away their child'. There has never been any other social services concerns, the family are from an affluent background and are both lawyers. Margret and Simon refuse to call Felix his name or use the correct pronouns, they believe this is a phase that will soon pass. They are threatening legal action against the local authority for encouraging Felix to transition. Felix's extended family are not aware of the situation or his transition.

Felix is spending a lot of time in his bedroom at his foster carers. He has been self-harming and says that he is worried his family don't love him anymore and he is suicidal. Felix attends school daily and has a good relationship with one specific teacher, Mrs Wells, who has contacted you expressing her concerns.

Questions

- What are you worried about as Felix's social worker?
- What is a strength/positive in this situation?
- What do you need to consider when visiting Felix?