



Press Release

Immediate Release

13 August 2025

Life-Changing Milestone for Wombourne Resident

Cygnet Social Care is proud to share the incredible journey of *Luke*, a resident at Staffordshire's Oakwood Gardens, whose long-held dream of travelling abroad has finally come true, thanks to the unwavering dedication and person-centred care of the support team around him.

Luke's story has been shared as part of Cygnet Social Care's 'Hopes and Dreams' campaign, which aims to put a spotlight on how residents within social care settings are reaching the ambitions and goals they set themselves, thanks to support from dedicated and compassionate staff.

When Luke moved into Oakwood Gardens, part of Cygnet Social Care's Staffordshire Supported Living service in 2019, he was facing significant personal and mental health challenges. Diagnosed with autism, learning difficulties, psychosis, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), his risks were high and his future uncertain. At the time, Luke required 2:1 support from staff in the community due to his difficulties.

But from day one, Luke had a goal: he wanted to go on holiday abroad.

Making that wish a reality required a step-by-step plan, driven by his commitment and the creative, supportive approach of the team at Oakwood Gardens. Staff worked with Luke to break his goals down into small, manageable steps that felt achievable, helping him build confidence, stability, and trust over time.

By 2022, Luke's progress was remarkable. He had successfully transitioned to 1:1 support in the community, a milestone that reflected his increasing independence and emotional growth.

In 2023, Luke faced a setback when a change in medication affected his mental health. However, rather than letting this derail him, Luke, supported by staff, embraced a new focus on physical health, losing over three stone through healthy eating and regular gym sessions. This enabled him to safely return to the medication that supported his mental wellbeing.

To prepare for his ultimate dream, the team organised short UK breaks to gradually build his resilience to travel and change. These trips proved transformative.

Then, in May 2024, the dream became real. Luke boarded a plane for the very first time and jetted off to Mallorca, accompanied by his service manager and a support worker. From enjoying the sunshine to taking part in the hotel's evening entertainment, Luke embraced every moment.

The impact was profound, not just for Luke, but for his family. His mother was overwhelmed with emotion and pride at how far her son had come.

Luke returned home with memories to last a lifetime and a new sense of pride and self-belief.

But this is just the beginning. In summer 2025, Luke will embark on his next overseas adventure, this time to Gran Canaria. With a dolphin experience and a full itinerary planned, Luke is already counting down the days.

Leanne Squire, manager of Oakwood Gardens said: "His story is a shining example of the transformative power of personalised support, belief, and compassion, and perfectly embodies the heart of Cygnet Social Care's *'Hopes and Dreams'* campaign.

"Luke's journey is not only inspirational, it's a powerful reminder that with the right support, even the most ambitious dreams can come true.

"We are incredibly proud of him and the team at Oakwood Gardens for making this milestone possible."