

Stockport2020 – video transcript

Video transcript of Janet El-Mikatti's experience.

Statement from a Stockport parent, 24th July 2020

"I would like to highlight the devastating effect that lockdown had on the mental health of people with a learning disability.

This has been especially difficult for those with autistic features who need routine, certainty and a planned life".

"They were unable to understand why overnight all the activities that they were used to and loved had stopped.

Those in supported accommodation were suddenly unable to see family and friends except via video link.

Those shielding couldn't even go for walks".

"These things were made worse because we couldn't give them any information as to when and how things would return.

Adult Social Care tried to support us electronically and by phone but there was very little that they could do".

"The young people and their unpaid carers will take a long time to recover from this trauma.

I am sure that the paid carers have also felt a severe strain trying to give increased support.

There is still a very difficult road ahead".

Statement from a Stockport parent, 22nd February 2021

"Getting the vaccine as an unpaid carer has been such a relief.

Our big fear has always been that if we caught the virus, who would look after our young people?

Now if we do catch it [Covid-19], it should only be mild".

"People with a learning disability now also getting the vaccine is such a reassuring step.

The thought of them in hospital and not being able to be with them was too horrible to contemplate".

Janet El-Mikatti, Stockport.