

## CASE STUDY Ventilated Child

### The Service User

James\* was born prematurely at 23 weeks and has chronic lung disease and subglottic stenosis. He has a tracheostomy to help him breathe and requires continual ventilation. James receives all of his dietary requirements via a gastrostomy. He also suffers with epilepsy for which he receives ongoing medical treatment.

James spent the first 12 months of his life in hospital leaving his family desperate for the day when he was able to come home.

### The Requirement

James' acute care requirements posed a challenge for the PCT as this was to be their first continually ventilated child in the community. As a result of this, they approached Interserve Healthcare to assess the feasibility of setting up a 24 hour care package.

An initial meeting was organised with the Interserve Healthcare Children's Clinical Nurse Specialists and Quality and Development teams to establish safe parameters of working and identify potential risks. These included;

- Delegation of nursing tasks to Healthcare Assistants (following NMC guidelines).
- Identifying a Lead Nurse to carry out ongoing supervision and support for our workers.
- Identifying experienced workers with relevant skills to provide care.
- Identifying necessary competence levels.
- Coordinating specialist training requirements.
- Obtaining relevant protocols based on James' specific clinical routine and emergency procedures such as food regimes and emergency epilepsy management.
- Establishing suitable equipment levels.

Interserve Healthcare liaised with the Community Nursing team and the Specialist Hospital team in order to facilitate a smooth transition from hospital to home. A detailed care assessment of James' requirements was carried out with James, his family and relevant healthcare professionals.

Interserve Healthcare organised for care staff to attend a service user specific training programme. It was also agreed that Interserve Healthcare would meet with James and his family on a weekly basis to ensure that they were happy with the service. A Lead Nurse was recruited to provide clinical support and supervision to the care staff and family, which has been extremely successful in offering support to all key individuals.

### The Outcome

Interserve Healthcare has now been managing James' care package for over 12 months. It has been a huge triumph with our staff learning new skills and taking on additional responsibilities. More importantly, we have enabled James to go home and live a fulfilling and positive life.

*\*Service Users name has been changed for data protection.*