

Case Study 1

Philip is 16 and is in hospital having taken an overdose of paracetamol. Philip has been in hospital for three weeks and although medically fit for discharge, the local authority cannot find an appropriate home. Philip had been living under a section 20 in a children's residential setting. The setting gave immediate notice. Philip has made attempts on his life several times. This is through cutting, overdosing and walking onto a main road. Philip regularly goes missing and says he does not want to be alive. Philip recently suffered a close family bereavement. Philip has not been settled in the hospital. He has attempted to assault medical staff and has threatened to leave. Philip has a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder. Philip was assessed under the Mental Health Act but did not meet the criteria for secure. The local authority is seeking a DoL order while Philp is in hospital and while they find a suitable home. This will include 2:1 supervision at all times and permits the use of restraint to prevent Philip leaving or self-harming. It is expected this DoL will continue in a residential setting.

What is the best setting for Philip?
What are the added complexities for this particular case?

What are your observations?