

Madelena

Madelena lives with her husband and her 25 year old son with learning disabilities and ADHD. Her other two children have now left home and have established their lives elsewhere in the country. Her son attends a day centre two days a week, but needs constant supervision at home due to his active behaviour. Madelena also cares for her frail father in law. Originally from Italy the whole family hold very strong Roman Catholic beliefs and are adamant that the father-in-law should be cared for by the family. Two other members of the husband's family help to look after him, but Madelena is expected to take her turn, in spite of her caring responsibilities to her son.

Madelena likes to keep the home clean and tidy at all times and her husband works long hours as a taxi driver and is unable to spend much time at home. He is struggling to work enough hours to maintain the family income. Madelena's eyesight is very poor and her English is limited. She feels trapped and depressed and is worried about what might happen to her son if something unexpected happens to her as well as what the future might hold for him in the long term. She feels however she must keep up a coping front.

1. What sort of outcomes might Madelena wish to achieve as the carer?
2. How might you enable her to identify the outcomes that are right for her?
3. What sort of solutions might make life better for Madelena and her family?
4. What services and support are available locally to assist in reaching those solutions?
5. How would you ensure the services and support identified are meeting Madelena's identified outcomes?

