**SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELL-BEING (WALES) ACT**

**CASE STUDY**

**Rhys**

**Part One**

Rhys came into care for the second time when he was 12. He had a number of placements in residential care homes. As Rhys approached his 16th birthday through his pathway planning his social worker and personal adviser recognised that although he had many practical skills, there were concerns about his emotional resilience. He just did not have the coping strategies to manage in the wider community as he was used to living in a supportive and protecting environment. Rhys remained in care for just under a year after his 16th birthday while workers tried to prepare him for living more independently.

**Questions**

1. What approaches could the social worker or personal advisor take to identify support and build on Rhys’s skills and increase his emotional resilience?
2. What supports and services are you able to identify in your area that may help Rhys develop independence skills?

**Part Two**

Just before his 17th birthday Rhys moved into a local foyer where he stayed for six months. It became obvious he was vulnerable to peer pressure and he began smoking cannabis and drinking alcohol. He was unresponsive to training or education programmes offered, and was given 28 days’ notice, during which time he refused support from foyer workers and his social worker. Social services were forced to make decisions on his behalf — they moved Rhys to a flat provided by an independent accommodation provider for 16—18 year-olds. As soon as Rhys reached 18 he was allocated social housing from the local authority. Although extra support was put in place, he did not engage, and within six months he had a large overdraft, crisis loans, loans from independent lenders and outstanding utilities totalling £2,000 of debt. Part of this debt was due to Rhys buying drink for his friends, who took advantage of his vulnerability. It became apparent that Rhys was not coping or did not like living alone and he eventually abandoned his flat. He gave the keys to a so-called friend who damaged the property and caused neighbourhood nuisance. The arrears and damage totalled £1,800 when Rhys gave up his tenancy. Rhys was now relying on his friends to put him up. Two weeks before Christmas his failure to pay board resulted in him being asked to leave. His social worker managed to secure emergency accommodation at a hostel, but again he was asked to leave when he refused support, damaged his room and did not pay his personal charge. Rhys is currently in a bed and breakfast. No other local supported housing provider will accept him due to his behaviour and the housing department have assessed him as intentionally homeless. He is currently on notice from the bed and breakfast for not paying his personal charge.

**Questions**

1. Can you identify key stages and factors during Rhys’ journey that may have led to this outcome for him?
2. What are the key issues and barriers that need to be addressed?
3. What are the alternative approaches and supports that could have been put in place to secure a better outcome for Rhys?
4. What are the supports and services available in your area that may have assisted Rhys?