



Case Study – Families Unit

Author:	Phil Sherwood / Hayley Dawson	Date:	20/9/2013
----------------	-------------------------------	--------------	-----------

Brief profile / background of Family

- Referral received from Health Visitor following ongoing Child Protection concerns. Family with two parents, three children, a daughter aged 7 and two sons aged 3 and 2 years. Mum was also pregnant with another baby

Family lived in NR5 area. Previous issues with domestic violence between parents which was having a severe detrimental effect on the children's welfare and developmental progress. Also concerns raised about family uncle who had been staying at the family home and allegations of physical violence and verbal threats made to the children.

Main issues on referral:

RELATIONSHIPS:

Dad's brother had been staying with the family for nine months and there were concerns regarding allegations of physical violence and threats towards the 7 year old daughter. Also a history of domestic violence between Mum and Dad.

LIVING AND ACCOMMODATION:

Family had been given an eviction date due to non-payment of rent and high level of arrears. Home was dirty and cluttered and the garden also needed attention. Household repair issues were unresolved including plug sockets left bare, and mould on the walls.

EDUCATION/EMPLOYMENT/ASPIRATIONS:

Dad worked as a chef but the hours varied meaning the income was not reliable and affected the family's ability to always pay their rent as required.

PHYSICAL/MENTAL HEALTH:

Three year old son suffered from asthma and eczema which was not well controlled so was being seen by a paediatrician. Also had an unassessed developmental delay. Dad had become depressed after the loss of his mother and had been turning to alcohol to manage this.

POLICE INVOLVEMENT:

Allegations regarding violence and threats to 7 yr old daughter by Dad's brother had been reported to the police after she mentioned this at school. Police and Children's Services were conducting investigations.

PARENTING:

Children were under Section 17, Child in Need process. Oldest daughter would be out on the estate alone sometimes until 10pm at night. Mum and Dad were struggling to establish routines and to get the children to bed at an appropriate time. Mum did not feel supported by Dad and had concerns the situation would

deteriorate further once the new baby was born.

Current performance and activity *(who was involved, what was done and how was it achieved)*

- Partnership working

Multi-Agency working – Child in Need meetings were held regularly and attended by all professionals currently working with the family. Family engaged well with this process.

DWP - good partnership work regarding benefit advice to prevent the family being in hardship.

Children’s Services - the family were allocated a Social Worker. They also started having support through home based support to continue and monitor the daily routines and the safety of the children.

Health Visitors – regarding the ongoing support for 3 year old.

Neighbourhood Housing Officer - supported the family in their new home, looked at structural issues, fencing issues and working closely alongside other statutory and non statutory agencies.

Nelson’s Journey – organisation to support children through loss of a loved one – referral made for daughter for loss of her Nan.

The Garage – referral made for daughter to undertake dancing lessons to give positive interaction with other children and allow her to develop her own identity.

What were the demonstrable Impacts *(describe what the impact has been on outcomes for children, young people, parents and carers to date and how this can be evidenced)*

Increased Attendance at school	Daughter has been attending school well through the intervention. School have flagged up that during our intervention she has become a happier and more confident girl who appears happier to share her home life with teachers and peers alike. She enjoys after school activities and is eager to please.
Reduce Antisocial Behaviour	No further C39D reports have been submitted due to antisocial behaviour between parents. Levels of clutter and waste have reduced also.
Living Conditions/Accommodation	Supported a housing move for the family from living in a cramped home to a larger four bedroom property. Highlighted a need for 3 year old to have his own room due to his needs Having a larger and more family orientated home gave the family much needed breathing space and an environment for children to develop, grow and feel safe in.
Family Relationships/Communication	Both parents began to work together more effectively, sharing out more of the household chores as well as giving one another a break. Dad spent less time at home playing on his video console, watching TV and drinking with his mates at home whilst mum did everything else, instead focussing on the needs of the children.
Physical/Mental Health	Support provided to parents regarding developmental delay of 3 year old. Meeting

	<p>arranged with Disability Rights Norfolk to support a claim for Disability Living Allowance as well as to access Carer's Allowance. This allowed family to receive adequate benefits to support their son's needs appropriately. Letter was also provided from Children's Services so outreach support would be an option for the family. Ensured son was added to the Norfolk Disability Register so the family would receive up to date information regarding local services and activities that the family may access around his needs.</p>
<p>Reduction of worklessness benefit</p>	<p>Supported male to seek betterment opportunities regarding employment, as currently on a zero hour contract.</p> <p>Offered support to write CV and job search at the local libraries.</p>
<p>What now happens differently for children, young people and families as a result of your actions. What were the outcomes?</p>	
<p>Supported Male to claim appropriate benefits including Carers Allowance and Income support as unable to sustain his current employment due to un-reasonable hours that were having an impact on the family.</p> <p>Parents were given extensive support to create a stable, familiar and structured routine for the children.</p> <p>The work and advice given was centred around the children.</p> <p>3 year old son now has a structured Statement of Educational Needs, with Nursery and schools working alongside the parents to ensure a smooth and familiar transition for him and ensure that he gets adequate one to one support. Both parents need to ensure that his learning needs and speech and language development are followed through at home. It appeared his use of increased language as well as ensuring that he is being understood and recognised by others, has ensured a much calmer, happier and less anxious little boy</p> <p>The family have stated that they do feel more empowered and able to meet the daily needs of their children. I stressed importance for both parents that they may supervise and safeguard the children at all times.</p>	
<p>Future developments (how these will be achieved and how potential outcomes for children, young people, parents and carers will be delivered)</p>	
<p>Family to continue to claim Income Support, DLA and carers allowance. Future opportunities for adult in the family to return to work.</p> <p>Family to continue being supported by Children's Services and Home based Support.</p> <p>Dad advised to invest in himself both emotionally and physically - would be beneficial for him to link into his GP for support and referral for well-being, counselling.</p> <p>For both parents it has been advised that they consider the Solihull parenting in terms of understanding and recognising the needs of their children.</p> <p>Mum advised to consider getting more pro-active with young mum groups, accessing self help such as through 4 Woman.</p> <p>Ensure appointments and nursery provision for 2 year old are arranged and kept to ensure continuing development.</p>	

