

ECEY5011 – Safeguarding: Practice, Legislation and the Multi-disciplinary Team

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Scenario conducted by the group:

Home environment: Molly (Health Visitor) has seen a significant amount of empty alcohol bottles on more than one occasion when visiting the home for regular appointments for Freya (sister). Molly has reported this to Codie, who is a social worker in the local area. After a couple of visits by Molly and once with Codie, the male (Rob) has shown traits of aggressive behaviours and has started to refuse entry. However, during these visits, Molly and Codie have been able to talk to Josh, and he has become emotional and withdrawn during the conversations. Josh has mentioned Freya's dad, Rob, becoming violent; Josh has discussed that this makes him feel scared when there is lots of shouting within the home environment. Living at the address are Mum (Kelly), Dad/Stepdad (Rob), Josh, and Freya. Josh's biological father is no longer in the picture, and since Rob has been introduced to the home, the deterioration of Josh's behaviours and well-being has become more noticeable.

Within the setting, Lauren (The teacher of Josh's class) has noticed that Josh's hygiene has deteriorated over time; he has become withdrawn and is visibly tired. Lauren has passed this information on to Katie (Headteacher/DSO). Lauren has recorded the information on the concerns on My Concern and on a password-protected document, which Katie has seen. Katie is often around the gates of the yard as the children come into school. Katie has noticed that Josh is very tired and withdrawn from mum, and the male does not respond when greeted. Lauren noticed and smelt the male during drop-off; the smell indicated a significant amount of alcohol was being consumed. Lauren has reported this to Katie, leading to Katie becoming vigilant of mum and stepdad. At this time Katie made a referral including all concerns risen over the last 4 weeks. Katie and Lauren compiled the evidence/information and created a referral to report the concerns, this was sent off immediately. A Child Protection Conference is called 5 days later. Concerns have risen for the children as there are concerns of emotional abuse and neglect. Police reports have shown that the Stepdad has previous domestic violence charges and alcoholism.

Codie Russell (2315602)

Good evening, I am Codie and the social worker that is dealing with this case. Firstly, I would like to thank you all for being here today to discuss whether we think Josh and Freya need safeguarding support moving forward in their home environment. We are accompanied this evening by Katie the Headteacher at Josh's school, Molly the Health Visitor of both children and Lauren the class teacher of Josh. My role as a social worker is a practice-based profession within academic and health service settings. We have raised concerns due to Rob's behaviors. Rob who is Freya's dad and Josh's stepdad. The concerns of Josh and Freya's wellbeing are at high risk this is why I have called this conference under Section 47 of the Children Act 1989. A child protection conference should be held to decide whether to start an investigation under Section 47, this is when the social worker believes the child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm based on information gathered from a referral or assessment. These conferences need to take place as soon as possible, with the needs of the children in mind. This is clarified by Procedures Online (no date). In addition, we received a referral from Molly, on the 28th of June, stating that she has witnessed concerning elements that have now been brought to our attention. Molly had informed social services that the house was in an unfit state and that there were alcohol bottles scattered around the house and that there was a lack of essentials to provide for the children. Due to this concern, I went out on the next visit with Molly to see the environment for myself. When we got to the house Rob answered the door, however, he refused entry. I then gave Rob a brief introduction of who I was and why I was there, but he still refused to let myself and Molly into the property. Rob became aggressive towards us both and at this point we could smell a considerable amount of alcohol coming from Rob. Kelly heard that Rob was becoming aggressive to us and came to the door, she tried to get Rob to calm down to which he responded "go away" in an aggressive tone. Irritation and severe mood swings are frequent indicators of alcohol misuse. This is because, some people experience violent outbursts following a period of intense drinking this is suggested by the Alcohol rehab guide (2023). When Kelly did come to the door Molly, and I noticed she had bruises around her neck and on her upper arms. Social care institute for excellence (2015) states that these are the most common sights for bruising. After seeing this and being refused entry, Molly and I thought best to report this to the police, as now this raises a lot of safeguarding concerns for Josh, Freya, and Mum. Whilst I was standing at the door, I could see Josh in the background, standing in the doorway of the kitchen, he looked very frightened. UNICEF (no date) article 19 states that children should remain free of violence. I was then sent the police report within days of contacting them and

they confirmed the condition of the home, and the bruises on Kelly's body, it also stated that Mum did not seem concerned about the change in the living situation. Mum was extremely reserved and did not respond when questions that were asked. Feeling that you are in constant fear and finding it difficult to interact in social interactions can have a huge effect on physical abuse. It may also have long-lasting effects on your self-esteem and mental health once you leave an abusive relationship stated VerywellMind(2024). Molly also informed me that mum was never like this, mum used to be very talkative and organized, the house was always clean, and Josh was very well looked after. It is only since Freya has been born the living condition and behaviors of Mum and Josh have completely changed. This could be an effect of the abuse going on in the household. Unfortunately, if this is happening in front of the children, it can lead to them later suffering from adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). Public health Wales (no date) state that ACEs are traumatic childhood events that can either directly harm a child or have an impact on them through their surroundings. A week after I received a referral from the school, on the 5th of July and I have been informed that Rob dropped off Josh to school intoxicated, Rob was then refused to pick up Josh at the end of the day. This then led to Rob becoming aggressive and the police being contacted. NSPCC (2023) go on to say that addiction to substances may lead to chaotic, unpredictable lifestyles, making it difficult for caretakers and parents to identify and provide for the needs of their children. Mum has been spoken to; however, she has not provided any further information to potential changes at home. UNICEF(no date) declare that without any kind of discrimination against the child, parent, or legal guardian, every child is entitled to certain protections (Article 2).Building changes (2021) explain the basic needs of the families include things like clothing, food , clean water, education, shelter, and access to high-quality medical care. I keep detailed records and reports of cases and share them with the relevant external agencies stated by (Social Care Wales 2017). Furthermore Study(2024) declare that social workers keep these records and reports to consider their ongoing engagement with individuals and make plans for the future. In addition to this I was also informed by Katie that she and Josh's teacher had noticed that that he is wearing dirty clothes daily, that are often carrying a smell. This was a concern for the school as Josh was always in clean clothes a few months before. Katie also informed me that there had been a decline in his dental hygiene, and the school have caught him eating out of other children's lunch boxes. This Suggests neglect, NSPCC(2024) confirm that the most common type of child abuse is neglect. This links in with the Maslow's hierarchy which states that before humans can "move up" to the more complex needs, the most basic requirements must be satisfied this is backed up by Witcia

state university (2024). Additionally, it can have long-term consequences for their mental and physical health. Josh had also been complaining that he had dental pain. This had been explained to mum and an emergency dental number was given so he would be seen in the next few days. Nature(2020) state that you should regularly check a number of dentistry-specific safety factors to ensure you're up to date on the latest practices. One of these subjects is dental neglect. School have also witnessed the change in Josh's behaviour during school by showing aggression towards his peers and staff, this could be apparent due to what he is witnessing at home. RC PSYCH (2024) declare that children who experience abuse and violence are more prone to engage in abusive and violent relationships themselves. Children often copy their parent's actions and boys can pick up violence towards women from their fathers. According to Family rights group (no date) they suggest that living in a home where there is domestic abuse can cause long-term harm to children, (Children's Act 1989). The headteacher has confirmed that there are also signs of emotional abuse. Josh seems withdrawn recently in school and don't seem to be playing with his friends as much. Furthermore. National domestic violence hotline (no date) declares that behaviours that are not physical but are intended to control, isolate, or terrify you are considered emotional abuse. This can manifest itself in intimate relationships as, among other things, manipulation threats, insults, and continuous observation. Now we can move onto Lauren the teacher for anything she would like to add about this safeguarding concern.

After listening to everyone's perspective on this situation, I think that we can all agree that the only right thing is for Josh and Freya to be put on the child protection register, for the benefits of their health and wellbeing. Mum can be referred to a councillor and Rob to an alcohol awareness course. Thank you all for attending this conference and I am happy that we have all come to one final answer to help this family moving forward.

Self-evaluation.

Legislation and frameworks were always something that intrigued me, after doing this assignment I have learnt so much about these two topics and it has made me want to learn and understand it even more, from the knowledge I have now learned I can implement this now in my daily work. I can do this now because I am now fully up to date in legal guidance and regulations that rule primary schools. Doing this assignment has also educated me so much more on safeguarding and the depths of it, the ability to safeguard, prevent damage,

respect human rights, and foster community trust is so important to me. The act that interested me the most was the children act 1989 and the social services act (Wales).

Lauren Jones (2307842)

Hello, I'm Lauren, and I am Josh's class teacher. After noticing the deterioration in Josh's behaviour, I felt that it is vital that we, as a school, keep a close eye on him. Josh is generally a well-behaved child who is happy to attend school; however, upon continuous observation, we have witnessed Josh having irregular outbursts of aggression towards staff and his peers, seeming anxious and unsure in school, and having minimal interaction with peers in and out of class (Welsh Government, 2023). This led to growing concerns for Josh's well-being, and as part of my role and responsibilities as his teacher, I decided to take it to the headteacher, Katie, who is also our Designated Safeguard Officer (Wales Safeguarding Procedures, 2024). The Education Act 2002 states that under section 157, we, as teachers, have a statutory duty of care to ensure the welfare, health, and safety of the children. If a child in our care is at risk of harm, the correct channels should be followed to ensure that the child and their families are provided with the best possible support from the school and involved external agencies. NSPCC Learning (2020) describes a Designated Safeguard Officer as the school's first point of contact if staff have growing concerns over a child in their care; they support staff and volunteers with safeguarding concerns and ensure the effectiveness of the setting's safeguarding measures. NSPCC Learning (2024a) describes safeguarding as the action taken by a person to protect children and promote their welfare.

The Headteacher and I discussed concerns about the child's well-being and thought we should communicate with the mother. However, upon communicating with Mum, she disclosed no information that could explain the changes that we have observed over the last month. Since having the conversation with Mum, we have noticed that Josh is arriving at school daily in the same clothes as the day before, which carry a smell on them or are visibly unclean. Additionally, we have also noticed that Josh is regularly attending school very tired and often finds him falling asleep during the school day; a decline in his dental hygiene has also been noted, and he has also been complaining of dental pain, which has been passed on to Mum. Furthermore, we have caught Josh in the cloakroom in other children's bags, eating items from their lunchboxes. This added to the concern that he might be experiencing neglect at home and his basic needs are not being met (Welsh Government, 2023). Further observations led us to notice a lack of attention from Mum towards Josh during drop-off and pick-up, which has also been noticed by Katie. During these times, Josh would be talking about his day to Mum. However, she would always be too engrossed in her phone to listen to him. NSPCC (2024b) describes emotional abuse as ways in which parents deliberately

ignore, humiliate or isolate their child, and often comes hand in hand with another form of abuse. As practitioners, it is important that we are vigilant and can spot signs of abuse; signs of emotional abuse are an inability to control emotions, difficulty in maintaining relationships or lack of self-assurance. To support this, Maslow's (1943) hierarchy of needs suggests that for a child to become self-actualised, their basic needs must be met; this includes the need for food and water, safety, feeling loved by family and good self-esteem to have self-actualisation. This supports that at home, Joshua may be subject to neglect in ways that we have witnessed at school, such as wearing dirty clothes, lack of dental care, being visibly unclean and being hungry. These are some key signs of neglect in children, and these have been consistent over a period that has been observed (NSPCC, 2024a).

On July 5th, Josh was brought to school by an unknown male. Upon arrival, it was obvious that he was withdrawn, and the male Josh was with smelt strongly of alcohol. This is when we became highly concerned that there could be something going on at home. Once he was settled in, I went and had a conversation with Josh to check up on him. During the conversation, I asked about the male who brought him to school that morning; once the question had been asked, Josh became very quiet and reluctantly responded, 'Rob'. I could tell that what I had asked made him very uncomfortable. HM Government (2018) and HM Government (2023) have compiled information on how to support children and their families when alcohol use is involved, including how to safeguard a child. For instance, setting realistic goals for the parents to follow and to keep routine, creating positive relationships with the parents or carers and ensuring we do what we can to support the family and lastly, communicating with the child about how they feel and what changes they want to see from that parent, while gently encouraging the parent to seek support for the sake of their family. It is important that the ones of us who work closely with Josh can notice the signs and symptoms of a child who is being affected by parental alcohol use. The signs that we have noticed are the neglect in his appearance through clothes, dental hygiene, and his changes in behaviour, which are signs of neglect and abuse. Spotting these signs early can help to get support put in place for the children and their families (NSPCC Learning, 2023). To support this, the UNCRC (1989) Article 19 states that Governments should do everything in their power to ensure that all children are protected from all forms of maltreatment, harm, abuse, neglect and violence that originate from parents, carers or someone in their family.

It was brought to my attention that a week before we made a referral on July 5th, 2024, Social Services had been involved with Josh's family due to an incident at home with his Stepdad on June 28th. This was when Katie decided that we must keep a closer eye on Josh. As more concerns arose, they were added to the list that we had compiled, and I took it to Katie, who was already aware of the concerns as they had been uploaded to MyConcern. MyConcern is a safeguarding software tool that schools and other educational settings use. It enables staff to record and report any safeguarding and well-being concerns about their students. The software is easy to use and allows for early intervention to be put in place, prioritises concerns, allows for information to be shared with the relevant teams and helps to build a supporting team around the child (The Safeguarding Company, 2024)

The information we had collected on Josh over time was stored in a password-protected file that only I had access to. This is in line with the Data Protection Act 2018, which allows for information to be stored without parental consent if there are concerns for a child's well-being and the information is being stored for safeguarding purposes. The Children Act 1989, Section 47, is why we are all here today. Section 47 is applied after a referral, and Social Services deems the child in need of protection from suffering or has suffered harm.

Regarding Josh, I do hope that the overall findings from today lead to Josh being added to the child protection list and that his family is able to get the individual support that they need to provide a happy home life where he can thrive and develop.

Before this module, I had a sound understanding of legislation and frameworks; this is because the school that I work in encourages us to refresh our knowledge and understanding every six months to a year when updates are made to our policies, procedures, and any key legislation and frameworks. Additionally, I feel that carrying out research has enhanced my knowledge and understanding and has allowed me to gain a deeper understanding of how to identify early signs and symptoms of children in my care who may be suffering from harm or neglect in their home lives. NSPCC (2024a) and NSPCC (2024b) have been key sources that have provided me with this information to strengthen my abilities of how I can protect and safeguard children in my care on a daily basis.

Katie Cornelius-Davies (2315284)

Child Protection Conference Script – Josh and Freya’s Story

Hi, I’m Katie, the headteacher of Josh’s primary school. A week prior of making the referral consisting of our concerns about Josh, I received a police report informing us about Rob’s behaviours at home towards multiagency workers. Rob was not known to us at the setting at this time; however, we were informed that mum had a new partner and had recently had a baby, Freya. We were also informed by mum that Josh’s biological father was no longer in contact with the family. Two weeks before receiving this report, I had asked Lauren, the practitioner in our nursery to make observations of Josh because there had been a significant change within Josh’s appearance, behaviours and overall development. These observations continued to be active as concerns continued to rise about Josh’s welfare. All concerns were recorded on My Concern. The Safeguarding Company (2024) says that the My Concern platform helps protect those at risk by allowing early intervention using a trusted, and secure platform. My Concern has a fixed recording while always keeping confidentiality.

A week later, an unknown male appeared at the school smelling of alcohol and seemed to be intoxicated. When Lauren had asked Josh who the male was, Josh replied with “Rob”. Lauren immediately came to pass on concerns about Rob and the appearance shown at the drop off. As evidence compiled, I decided to make a referral about the concerns of Josh’s welfare and emotional development. Rob came to collect Josh, however, was refused due to again, being intoxicated. Rob became aggressive and police was called for further help and assistance. This referral was made and sent by myself on the 5th of July 2024, and 5 days later, on this date the conference is commencing.

When Josh started attending my setting it seemed that he was supported by his biological mother and father in a positive manner. Josh always came to school with a smile on his face and was presented neatly every day. Josh’s behaviours and attitudes were exceptional with no concerns. However, concerns started to rise when Lauren informed me that mum had become nonresponsive at the door when dropping off or collecting. At this time Josh seemed to become aggressive towards peers and staff. After this initial conversation, concerns continued to dramatically escalate.

When concerns started to merge onto My Concern, I asked practitioners to make ongoing observations to indicate any patterns of behaviours or outbursts. These concerns peaked at the time Rob dropped Josh off smelling of alcohol. During our observations we assembled information that shows Josh's behaviours, and presentation declining rapidly. Recording and observing Josh during this time was beneficial as Ann Craft Trust (2024) suggests that communication and evidence are essential. The more evidence that is provided, the more helpful the outcome will be for the children in need. However, it is important that this is aligned with the *Data Protection Act 2018* as this allows for all information gathered is kept and stored safely. All information gained was placed in a file on my device, shared to relevant staff such as the practitioner within the classroom and had a password to gain access that was confidential to me. These documents will not be kept for no longer than is necessary.

According to Child Matters (2024) changes of behaviour in children can often be seen as being withdrawn and aggressive, inappropriate clothing for the weather, looking unclean, stealing food and having no understanding of basic hygiene. This can suggest emotional abuse or neglect.

According to NSPCC Learning (2020a) neglect is not meeting a child's physical or psychological needs. This can suggest Josh is in serious danger with his health, wellbeing and holist development. From building positive relationships with Josh, practitioners have raised concerns after witnessing a change in Josh's behaviours towards overall life situations. We have noticed that Josh has started to indulge on any food, he can see or is given. Josh has been found in the cloakroom looking into other children's bags looking for food he can intake. As a result of Josh being hungry and telling a practitioner that he has not had breakfast on more than one occasion, I have attempted to contact mum to offer help such as, Josh attending breakfast clubs and suggestions of foodbanks. It is noted that Josh has also become unhygienic as he is seen wearing the same clothes, which are not appropriate for school and are not always clean. It has also been taken into consideration that Josh seems to have a damp odour which seems to get progressionally worse. During interactions with Josh, he has recently been complaining about "bad teeth", and poor dental health has become a concern. According to Public Health England (no date) poor dental health impacts on children's health and wellbeing. Children who have toothache tend to need treatment as they have difficulty sleeping, and socialising. This information and concern has been passed on to mum, however, again, there was no response.

The NSPCC Learning (2020b) and Childline (no date) says, emotional abuse involves exposing a child to distressing scenarios, being emotionally unavailable towards the child, not praising the child for their achievements and does things to make the individual feel bad about themselves. Again, after taking notes from staff, it has been reported that mum has not shown a positive attitude to Josh's learning and often ignores Josh on pickup at the classroom door. Josh often taps mum for attention, but mum ignores Josh as she is occupied with her mobile phone. Within the setting, Josh can appear withdrawn and aggressive towards other children and is unable to play. Josh has also been extremely tired on a daily basis, often falling asleep on our carpet area. This suggests that Josh is not getting the correct amount of sleep that he needs.

Welsh Government (no date) announced that as a headteacher I am to follow policies and procedures to ensure the children in our care are safe and having their individual needs met, while raising concerns about a child in the right way. During this process all steps were taken to make sure Josh is safe, in and outside of school. I am also the Designated Safeguarding Officer, this means that I work with other services to help and support the child in need from all perspectives, and to make sure relevant staff and families all have the information they need. However, Kelly and Rob have failed to communicate about any changes, or concerns about Josh or their family events, even when I have tried endlessly to communicate effectively. NSPCC (2017) agrees by adding, the designated safeguarding lead is the person to take lead responsibility for all child protection issues in the school. The Designated Officer manages referrals where there are concerns about safety of the children.

Within my role I am dedicated to protect children from abuse and neglect while ensuring every individual child receives safe and effective care, this can benefit the children as they can have a variety of positive life chances. Estyn (2019)

According to Her Majesty's Government (2018) and Clements *et al.* (2017), the role of schools has a significant role when demonstrating and acting upon safeguarding matters. This helps the impact of the children's safety and welfare. During this process it is important that we identify the needs of the children, Josh and Freya. Multi-agency working is identified as a key support for our school staff to make timely referrals.

Within our setting we have a knowledgeable and compassionate team to ensure all children are safe and cared for. Every staff member within our school has training in all areas of

development and safety procedures and is provided with advice that they need at any time, as well as having the Senior Management Team to help. The school has also produced an appropriate policy and procedure to follow when dealing with issues that arise involving a child in our care. For example, our school policies provide outlines of United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child articles such as, taking all appropriate educational and legislative measures to protect children from all forms of physical or emotional abuse, and/or neglect, while in the care of parents or legal guardians (Article 19) and every child must and have the right to the best possible health. This means children have clean water, nutritious food and a clean environment to enable children to stay healthy. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (no date).

Children Act 1989, Section 47. A section 47 Act is instructed after a referral is made and Social Services conclude that the children need protection from suffering any harm. After sharing information today with yourselves, and staff in my setting, we believe that Josh and Freya are likely to be suffering or to likely suffer significant harm in the form of physical, emotional abuse or neglect. Regarding Josh, my team and I hope that the outcomes of today's findings lead to the children being added to the Child Protection Register as we support the family as a whole and individually to help them provide a safe and happy home environment. After the outcome has been decided, us as a team within the setting will engage with Kelly and Rob to ensure the child-centered protection plan is working efficiently for the family.

Self-Reflection

Before this assignment, I had some knowledge and understanding about legislation and frameworks. I knew that Safeguarding was a huge aspect of a settings focus and goal. Legislations and frameworks are dealt with within every workday of mine. Within my work place all policies and procedures are followed effectively. In additional to this, I feel that working with different perspectives, legislations and frameworks has allowed me to gain a greater understanding on how to spot signs and symptoms promptly when a child is being emotionally abused or neglected within their home environment. Therefore, I will take all of my new knowledge and keep up with my research of new legislation, frameworks and policies as this is one of my key focuses at work and use all of my techniques to ensure I am supporting the children within my care as best as possible.

Molly Gosney (2300697)

Previously, I was Josh's health visitor. The role of a health visitor is to help to provide the best start in life for children from the mother's pregnancy to the fifth year of the child's life. They are known as the 'backbone' of families as they ensure that any vulnerable children will be noticed and supported (Morton, A 2024). The health visitor will visit the home of the child to discuss their health and development with the parents. This gives the parents an opportunity to ask any questions or express any concerns about their child to gain help and support (NHS 2023). At this time of being Josh's health visitor, the household was stable and there were no causes for concern; as well as this, Josh seemed like a happy and healthy child. However, since being Freya's health visitor, I have seen a deterioration in the children's health and well-being. Children who are experiencing a decline in their well-being will display many behaviours that may be difficult to identify. For example, they may begin to behave aggressively verbally and physically, equally they may become withdrawn or anxious in the home or in social experiences, they may also have physical changes such as weight loss. The Mental Health Act 1983, amended in 2007, strengthens the importance for children's safeguarding and ensures to provide appropriate support for the child in any environment (NSPCC Learning 2023). The home environment was not up to standard on the first visit to meet the children's needs of physical and emotional health. Meeting the emotional needs of a child is imperative to give them a stable development. Emotional well-being helps the child feel good about themselves as well as being empathic and aware of their own and others emotions, this is important for a child's mental health and behaviours towards others however, it is difficult for children who experience abuse or an unstable living situation to develop their emotional well-being as they are more focused on their larger issues in life (Eaude, T 2009). On the first visit, only Kelly was home and she let me enter, I noticed the home was messy but due to the family having a newborn and a 3-year-old I disregarded this. Kelly (mum) however, seems reserved and does not respond to questions about the unstable living situation.

This raises safeguarding concerns for Kelly as it may indicate domestic abuse. The signs of domestic abuse include the possible victim being quiet and not wanting to communicate, or displaying anxious tendencies, these were both seen when interacting with Kelly (Victim Support Organisation no date). The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 recognises children and adults as victims of domestic abuse and provides the certainty of getting support in safe age-appropriate accommodation (NSPCC 2024). Due to this, I requested a second visit within two weeks. On this visit, Rob was present and hesitated to let me in initially but eventually did after a formal introduction. In this visit, I noticed that not only was the house still in a disorganised state but also had a lack of food and general necessities as well as this there were empty alcohol bottles situated around the home. In addition to this, it was noted that, before Kelly met Rob, Josh was well looked after, and mum had a loving and close relationship with him. However, since Freya's birth, which was just over 3 months ago, both children have had a decline in their well-being. I noticed this may be due to environmental influences. A child's environment will affect their health due to having a lack of loving relationships with caregivers, this creates problems such as anxiety or a lack of self-esteem which will negatively impact the child in many ways (National Academy of Health 2004). This concerned me as I am aware that Josh and Freya may not be having

access to Article 24 of the UNCRC that states that a child's health must be of highest standard as possible, physically and mentally (Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland 2024). The children especially showed an unstable and uncomfortable relationship with Rob as they showed an attachment to only Kelly, the children did not communicate with Rob and clung to Kelly, seeming nervous. Children will show attachment to one caregiver if they fear another present caregiver, this is due to the children recognising who gives them the best care (NSPCC 2021). This links to Bowlby's Attachment theory that states that children will form many attachments in their life but only a few will become a primary attachment, Bowlby also states that if a child does not receive the main appropriate attachment that they need from their caregiver, this could lead to emotional disruption for the child (Mcloed S, 2024). As result of this, on the 14th of June 2024 I contacted social services, and Codie responded who is the social worker within our local area. According to the National careers service GOV 2024, social workers help to support and protect children and adults that are in vulnerable family and living situations and aim to support people to live free of abuse so I felt that Codie would be a good addition to the second visit as she has a high understanding of poor safeguarding from caregivers. As Codie and I arrive at the property for the third visit, Rob refuses us entry immediately and refuses to

communicate with Codie after a brief introduction. However, Kelly comes to the door, but Rob responds to her in an aggressive manner and tells her to 'go away'. It was at this point that Codie and I notice a bruise on Kelly's neck and wrist but Kelly leaves before any questions were asked. Due to this, Codie and I were unable to investigate the family and living situation appropriately, but we are now concerned for Kelly, Freya and Josh's welfare. As a result of the negative interactions with Rob and Kelly, Codie and I have contacted the police to report the bruise on Kelly's neck and wrist as well as the unstable living situation. Due to the PACE (Police and Criminal Evidence Act) Act 1984, the police play a crucial role in protecting children in safeguarding issues and have a responsibility to promote the welfare of children, as well as this, all police have a significant understanding in being able to recognise and support families who may be experiencing poor safeguarding (GOV UK 2016). Due to this, Codie and I thought it would be more appropriate for the police to investigate further as they will be able to handle Rob in a correct manner if he becomes aggressive. The social worker has informed me to keep note of any changes in the children's appearance and behaviours. the police confirmed that Kelly had a bruise on her neck and wrist, raising suspicion once again of domestic abuse and safeguarding concerns. Signs of domestic abuse include the victim being secluded and avoiding social interactions, seeming worried, or scared around their partner, and physical harm such as bruises, cuts, or weight loss (National Centre for Domestic Violence no date). Since we have seen these factors in Kelly, we are concerned for the families safeguarding, especially since domestic abuse can affect the whole family and decrease their physical and mental well-being (NSPCC 2024).

Self-review

From this research, I have learnt the importance of safeguarding and the impact of the legislation and frameworks surrounding it that help and support families that need it. For example, section 28 of the Children Act 2004 imposes a duty on authorities and relating organisations to ensure that any person, including children and adults, who needs

safeguarding support can access it in order to promote and protect the well-being of children and adults (LawWales 2021). I think that I have shown that I can work well in a group to investigate and research into a case study to gain knowledge and understanding of safeguarding and how a situation like this should be handled in practice. I was able to take on the role of a health visitor in this case study where I had to research what the roles and responsibilities of this role are. I was able to do this successfully by conducting research before and throughout investigating the case study so that I had full understanding of my role throughout. Next time, I think that I will manage my time better so that I can perform my research over a longer amount of time in order to be prepared for the presentation earlier.

Shared reference list

Lauren's Reference List

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