



UNIVERSITY OF WALES

**Trinity Saint David
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Assessment Component 1 Presentation

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- **Lecturer name: Dr Diola Bijlhout**
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Introduction

- For many civilizations, the vulnerability of children and young people is a serious problem. Due to their immaturity on all fronts—physical, emotional, and cognitive—children and young people are particularly susceptible to abuse and exploitation. They frequently lack awareness of their rights and the ability to defend themselves against exploitation (Adekunle, 2020).
- Their whole welfare, as well as their physical, mental, and emotional health, might suffer long-term, severe effects because of this sensitivity. To secure their safety and build a better future for them, it is crucial to address and lessen the vulnerability of children and young people.

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Present the case study

- **Child vulnerability is the result of numerous social and environmental factors working together (NSPCC, 2021)**
- **Nuclear family - family unit that consists of parents and their children**
- **The term "nuclear" refers to the fact that this family structure is a fundamental unit of society (NSPCC, 2021)**
- **Young person, age 17 misusing drugs, parents don't want him living with them, dropped out of high school age 16, suffering from depression and anxiety, unemployed, involved in selling fake tickets to fund for drugs**
- **Vulnerabilities identified:**
 - **Emotional – anxiety and depression,**
 - **Physical - drug misuse, could lead to physical health problems in the future,**
 - **Social – social isolation,**
 - **Financial - drug habit and illegal activities,**
 - **Legal – selling fake tickets could result in criminal charges**
 - **Environmental - easily accessible drugs.**

Factors of vulnerability children, young people and families can face

Factors identified:

- Misusing drugs and/or alcohol (substance misuse).
- Involvement in the criminal justice system.
- Mental health problems.
- Neglect could have started at a much younger age, hence turning to drugs.
- Location – higher rate of possible harm Southwark (11,013 young people in contact with drug and alcohol services 1.04.20 - 31.03.21) (Barnes, 2021)
- Long-term drug addiction has been associated with anxiety, depression, and paranoia (Mind, 2017) With symptoms often appearing at age 6, anxiety disorders affect about 8% of adolescents aged 13 to 18
- Neglect effects up to one in ten children in the UK, it is one of the most common form of abuse (NSPCC, 2021)
- In the UK, one in ten 17-year-olds will have experimented with strong drugs like cocaine and ketamine (Barnes, 2021)
- There were 2,487 cases in 2021–2022 where young people were formally involved with the criminal justice system. This is an increase of 220 (9.7%) from 2020–21 (Justice, 2022)

The impact of these factors on the children and young people

Drug misuses: - associated with behavioural, physical and mental health problems.

- young adults can have issues with multiple substances
- 75% of young adults in treatment reported starting use before 15 years old, multiple substances (Gilvary E., 2000)

Mental health: - suffering with depression and anxiety, being continued into adult life treatment,

- 1/3 young adults in treatment for drug misuses require mental health treatment, 49% girls, 30% boys according to gov.uk

Dropping school: - 20% of young people end their education before secondary level

- mental disorder increase the risk of dropping school in young adults
- social status of the family (Hjorth et.al., 2016)

Juvenile delinquency: - mental health, drug misuses and family background are main factors

- more likely to repeat offences
- highly influenced by race, class and gender (Shoemaker D., 2017)

The process of intervention by relevant health and social care agencies within the case study

- **Children Act 1989 art. 17 states that a child in need is a child who is unlikely to achieve or maintain a reasonable level of health or development. Their health and development could be significantly jeopardised without the provision of services.**
 - **Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub(MASH) Southwark is a multi-agency hub that is used for all safeguarding referrals for children in Southwark. MASH brings together all the key agencies that work together, in the best way to safeguard vulnerable children and their families.**
 - **Agencies that are part of MASH Southwark:**
 - **Children's Social Care**
 - **Police**
 - **Community Health**
 - **Southwark Housing**
 - **Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services**
 - **Youth Justice service**
 - **Southwark Housing**
 - **Family Early Help**
 - **Substance Misuses Service**
 - **Domestic Abuse Service**
 - **South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust**
 - **National Probation Service**
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Actions of social services with the family

- Monitor progress: Social workers will keep an eye on the family's progression in achieving the objectives of the care plan and make any revisions.
- Support: Social workers can offer the family continuous help to make sure they have the tools and assistance necessary to preserve the safety and wellbeing of the kid or children.
- Remove the child from the home: The child may need to be taken out of the house and placed in foster care or with a relative in extreme circumstances if social services judge that the child's safety is in danger.

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Results and outcomes

- Staying off drugs.
- Attending rehabilitation session.
- Building relationship with parents.
- Getting back to education or apprenticeship.
- Get support with creating a cv to get a job.
- Housing support.
- Financial support for example, applying for benefits.
- Mental health will improve.
- His self- esteem will build.
- Financial stability.
- More job opportunities once he builds his Qualification.
- Positive relationship with his parents.
- He will not be at risk of homelessness.

Policy and legislation related to safeguarding children and young people

CHILDREN ACT 2004,

This act states that every person working under this act and legislation has the responsibilities to help safeguard the children and to promote their welfare.

(www.ihasco.co.uk, 2023)

preventing the child and the young people from anything that brings them harm mentally, physically and financially.

An assessment can be done to investigate the parenting style, the mental health capacity of the young people.

As stated in the case study, the young person is going through anxiety and depression. An observation can be done to ensure he gets the help he needs urgently and take actions in regard to his mental health.

EDUCATION ACT 2002,

Every child has the right to education and the legislation sets out duties and responsibilities to ensure every young people and children are receiving the right education they need.

To ensure that they are protected from any harm, abuse and neglect.

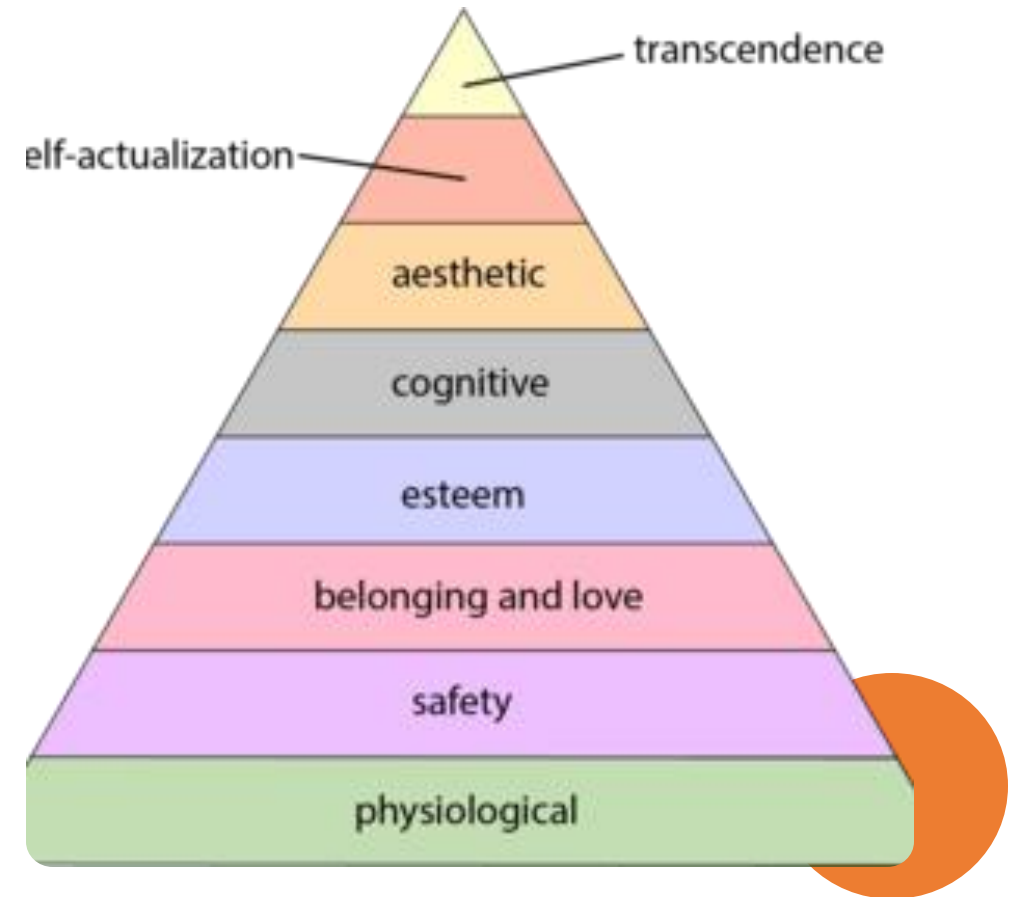
the young person has dropped out from school due to anxiety and depression. To overcome this, the legislation needs to ensure to do an assessment on his health and find out how to help him get back to education.

The legislation can work together to ensure the safety of the children and the young people.

(legislation.gov.uk, 2002)

Theories guiding interventions of social services in case of safeguarding issues

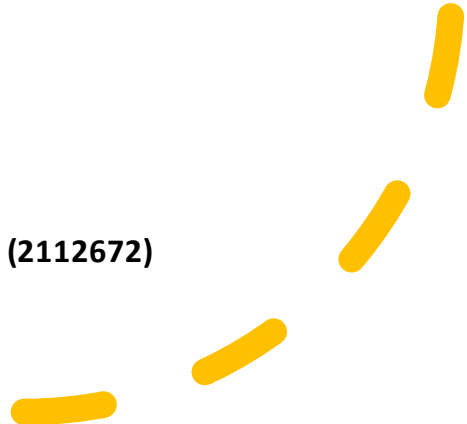
- Attachment theory.
 - Lack of belonging and love.
- A parent may serve comfort and fear.
- Maslow's Hierarchy of needs, ((1943) it states that after psychological and safety needs is fulfilled, the third level of human needs is the need of belonging and love.
- In this case, we see that the 17-year-old lacks the need of belonging and love considering that his parents do not want him around.



Recommendations

- ❖ **Provide Access To Mental Health Support Services**
- ❖ **Develop A Tailored Education Plan**
- ❖ **Engage The Family In Support Services**
- ❖ **Enhance Partnership Working**
- ❖ **Provide Access To Mental Health Support**
- ❖ **Address The Underlying Causes Of Substance Misuse**
- ❖ **Provide Educational And Vocational Support**
- ❖ **Involve The Family In The Intervention Process**
- ❖ **Provide Ongoing Support And Follow-up**

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Conclusion

- ❖ In conclusion, the case study illustrates the complexity and interconnectedness of the dangers faced by children and adolescents. For instance, they may engage in substance abuse, have mental health issues, be neglected, or run afoul of the law.
- ❖ In terms of how social services and policies attempt to aid, it is evident that there are both positive and negative aspects to them.
- ❖ In addition, regulations such as the Children Act of 1989 demonstrate that people care about protecting children's health and development.
- ❖ But, there are also areas for improvement. Due to funding cuts, it might be difficult for agencies to provide the necessary assistance to at-risk children and adolescents, making the need for additional funding a crucial concern
- ❖ Social services and policies have assisted vulnerable children and adolescents in certain areas, but there is still a great deal of work to be done to ensure that every child gets the necessary support and resources to thrive.

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