

Safeguarding: Practice, Legislation and the Multi-Disciplinary Team

No AI has been used in this assignment.

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Initial Child Protection Conference Script

- Teacher – Lucy
- Chair/ Headteacher/safeguarding officer – Kelly
- Social worker – Lucie
- Health visitor – Meg

The behaviour of a 3-year-old child in your setting has altered significantly over the last month. You are concerned regarding the child's well-being, and you have raised this matter with your leader. With the support of your leader/manager, you have also discussed your concerns with the child's mother, but she has not offered any explanation or disclosed whether there are any changes to family circumstances. By now, the child is wearing dirty clothes on a daily basis and the child's level of hygiene has deteriorated for some time. This morning, the child arrived at the setting with a male, who was not known to the setting. There was clear evidence of a strong smell of alcohol on the male. The child was withdrawn. As a team of staff, you are also aware that the child has a younger sister under a year old. Your leader/manager asks you to document everything and decides to make a referral.

Scenario

Ben and Lola – Mum (Gemma) and Dad (John) split after he went to prison for GBH and the birth of Lola, mum single for 3 months. Ben didn't show any concerning behaviour due to masking it well. Mums' mental health has deteriorated since John went to prison, health visitor noticed and referred mum to GP a few times, but mum did not go. Mum is in denial about her mental health problem. Headteacher received police report about mum being drunken disorderly in the house with numerous parties with the children at home. Health visitor visited and found house a mess. Ben showing signs of being withdrawn.

Mum got into new crowd of friends who are not good influences.

Kelly, Lucy & Meg followed by mine:

Lucie: Hello, my name is Lucie Daley, I am the social worker that has been assigned to this case focusing on the children Ben Davies, Lola Davies and their caregivers Gemma and John Davies. My role as the designated social worker is to overlook all relevant information and reports to plan for the best outcome to protect the children's safety and well-being, however, it is also my role to ensure the children's voices are heard throughout the difficult process (Child Law Advice Service, 2023). I have been provided with ongoing reports and concerns that have been made over the previous weeks by the professionals working with Ben. Following these reports, I have created an in-depth overall report focusing on concerns but also family strengths. During this time, I have taken police reports in accordance to section 17 of Children's Act 1989 due to dad being in prison and the reports Trinity Primary School have received about mum being drunken disorderly and frequent parties whilst Ben and Lola are present in the property, this allowed me to assess the family background and significant transitions and lifestyle changes the children have been facing (Gov.uk, 2023). A conference has been called enabling a multi-agency approach to gather and discuss the safeguarding concerns for Ben and Lola. Prior to this conference I met with Mum Gemma following the safeguarding concerns I had received. We had an in-depth discussion on what changes have been made to Ben's life recently mum stated that there have been no significant changes. However, I assessed the home and assessed mum's behaviours during my time spent with her, mum was very disorganised throughout the meeting. When we discussed mum's mental well-being mum denied any changes to her mental health. The home the Davies family are currently living at was unhygienic; there was an unhealthy smell of cigarettes and alcohol within the downstairs area. I assessed the children's bedrooms, the children were without clean bedding, and they had dirty clothes all over their bedroom floors, this was not to the living standard within the child's rights as stated in Article 24 of the United Nations Convention on the rights of a child (Unicef, no date). After my meeting with mum I met with Ben in Trinity Primary School, this meeting was 1:1 using a play based strategy, we used a dolls house and figures, I asked Ben to show me who lived at home with him using the doll figures provided. Ben had shown there are many people in his home but was unsure why. I asked Ben how he feels at home, Ben replied, "sad and scared", he then stated that

his dad is “bad” and “has made mummy sad”. Reports and evidence of this meeting have been filed. Following the S47 enquiry, I discussed with mum that both Ben and Lola will be sent for a medical examination due to signs of neglect. The examination for Ben and Lola has been held with their health visitor. It is important to note that I have also received reports from the Health Visitor stating that mum has been advised to seek medical attention on multiple occasions, each time mum has failed to access the support (Wales Safeguarding procedures 2023). As the responsible care and support protection plan coordinator I have created a plan to support Ben, Lola and Mum, this plan involves the practitioners of Trinity Primary School monitoring and recording the attendance for Ben over the next three months and chasing any absences. As a social worker I will do unannounced house checks, this will include assessing the children’s bedrooms and other rooms around the house. Ben and Lola’s health visitor is required to run medical examinations every two weeks, this will include assessing their weight, height, blood pressure and well-being checks, keeping record and informing mum (Gemma) of any changes (NHS, 2023). Ben will have a children’s prison practitioner visit him once a week for one hour during school hours to follow an intervention supporting children with a loved one in prison, mum will also receive support from a family councillor within the prison, mum will attend once a week. Myself as the social worker on this case will meet with Ben every 10 working days in Trinity Primary School and visit him at home at least once every 4 weeks in line with part 4 of the social services and well-being (Wales) act 2014 (Legislation.gov.uk, 2014). All practitioners must keep consistent communication; any concerns are to be recorded and passed onto myself as the designated social worker immediately. Finally, it is important to note that a review conference will be held within 3 months from this initial conference, a date to follow in due course. Are we all in agreement with this course of action?

All reply: YES

To conclude, this plan will start immediately to support the wellbeing and safety for the children involved. The plan must be followed correctly and consistently to ensure the children are protected at all times. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Now we will each go into our individual self-reflections:

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