



Assessment Component 1

Case study - Supporting Paper

Student name: Mihaela Ganchev

Student ID: 2013873

Module name: Children, Young People and Families

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Lecturer name: Bianca Sanfilippo

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Table of Contents

1. Introduction
2. Case Study
3. Risk Factors
4. Impact on children's health and wellbeing
5. Intervention
6. Legislation related to the case study and
7. Conclusion
8. References
9. Appendix

In this essay I will analyse the case study about the case of Norfolk talking about the project "The Families Unit". The family's situation represents the families that are facing an unpleasant situation and it shows the different factors of vulnerability that are reflecting on the youngest ones, the children, due to the mother's alcohol misuse. Vulnerability is the combination of a variety of human and situational factors that build progressively over time especially in child vulnerability. As these characteristics change and develop, so do the types and levels of child vulnerability. (OECD, 2019) A child is everyone under the age of 18. In England even if a 16-year-old child is living by itself, is practicing further education, a member of the army or in hospital, is still a child according to the law. (Roche, 2001) Children's requirements, for example, are shaped by their age, which also exposes them to new possible problems. I will describe the influence and effect on children. The essay will also show the different interventions that are offered in the United Kingdom and what they recommend. I will mention the policies and legislation that is there to support children and make sure that they are safe in their family.

The case study is about a mother named Holly, who is 37 years old and her children, Sarah, Mark, and Kylie who are 13, 9 and 2 years old. The children became a part of the CPP (Children Protection Plan) due to the neglect and emotional abuse they were experiencing from their mother and her abusive partner. The family had been as well through physical abuse. The mother, Holly, who is misusing alcohol. In addition, she also struggles with panic attacks and anxiety. She does not possess problem-solving skills and she was not able to show the children what they should and should not do. Through the anti-social appearance, the children were not regularly going to school. After the local Families Unit steps in, the family was able to improve their situation within 11 months. The mother leaves her abusive relationship and she had been supported with parenting all the time. The older kids became more social and started to take part in courses and the youngest one, Kylie, was even able to start nursery. The main issues of the case study were the developmental issues, the abuse and neglect that the children have experienced due to Holly's behaviour.

As mentioned, the children have experienced developmental issues, because they were missing school very often. The physical abuse is already in their family history as well as the emotional abuse, that they were experiencing. They were neglected, because of the mother's drinking problems. The children were not safe, in case, they were exposed at risk. The parental substance misuse is the factor that causes the rest of the problems. The children did not have a good quality life and that is why there was the intervention coming from the council to support the family. (Children Act 1989)

Due to the neglect, the children might need to live in a not very tidy environment. The mother might be ignoring that and can end very badly for their health. While Holly is spending money for the alcohol, they eventually could not afford proper quality food, clothing, or other essential things. Physical and emotional abuse reflect also on their wellbeing. For example, psychological effects, like building relationships (Parental substance misuse, 2021). There can be eventually impact on the children's brain development and the risk of obesity, eating disorders and ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder) due to the stress that children experience. (Parental Alcohol

Misuse and Children, 2018) Due to the alcoholism that the children see as an example, they are being socially isolated. The response to their needs becomes very poor and the encouragement that children need to try new things is missing. As the daughter experienced, they might be bullied at school due to their situation and isolation. Parental substance misuse can affect children in many ways e.g., physically, emotionally, and psychologically (Parental substance misuse, 2021). Another aspect is that the older children might need to take care of a parent misusing alcohol or a sibling, which causes even more confusion in a child's eyes. (Parental Alcohol Misuse and Children, 2018)

The intervention in this case came from the Families Unit, who supported the mother and the children. In England, not all agencies work with children on protection plan (CPP). The whole process starts with a discussion at a conference, where the people, such as social worker and counsellor attend to identify the core group regarding the risk. As well as in this case parents are always encouraged, to attend group meeting, that will support them for the better. The length of a process like that can take up to 2 years, but in this case the intervention has been successful after 11 months. (Roberts)

Related legislation to the case is at first place the Children Act 1989 and 2004. They justify that the different agencies should work together towards safeguarding children. The first children act stands for the child, who is always the safest with their family. It aims to not take children away from their family, but to support them towards better. The Human Rights Act 1998 that states that everyone has the right of security and access to education. Towards child's right are also working The United Nations convention on the Right of the Child 1992. The keeping Children Safe in Education 2019 and the Education Act 2002 are there so teachers and assistants can detect when a child is not safe, as well as the management of safeguarding. The Working together to Safeguard Children 2018 is there for child-centred approach. (Johnson, 2019)

All the legislations are there to protect the children from neglect and abuse. The care should always be child-centred and what is best for them. The family is very important to a child and therefore it should remain around, through the interventions and support that the United Kingdom is providing.

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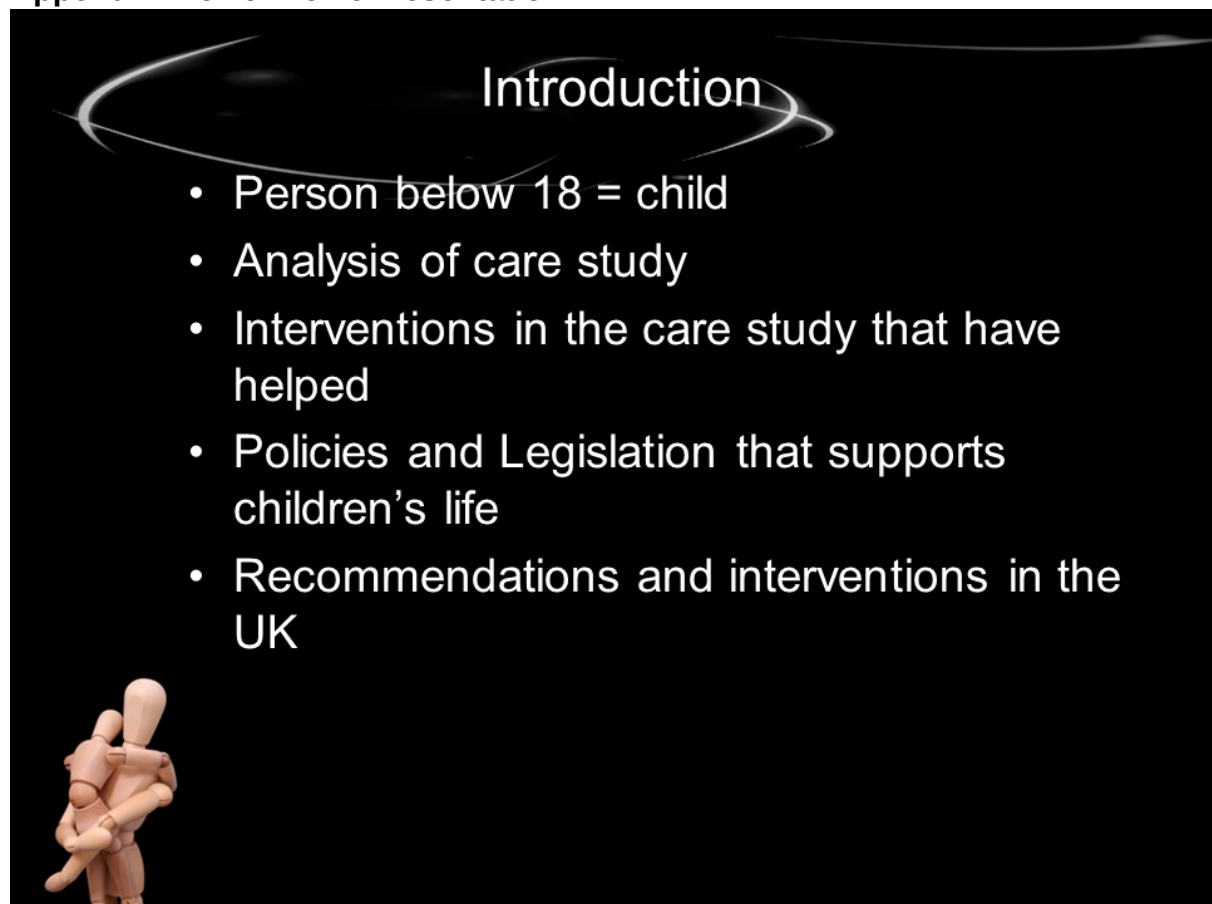
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Appendix: Power Point Presentation



Vulnerability and family facing adversity

- Factors: domestic abuse, substance misuse mental health related problems (*No child left behind Understanding and quantifying vulnerability*)
- Vulnerability:
 - “ **Vulnerability is a state of emotional exposure that comes with a certain degree of uncertainty. It involves a person's willingness to accept the emotional risk that comes from being open and willing to love and be loved.**” (*Fritscher, 2021*)



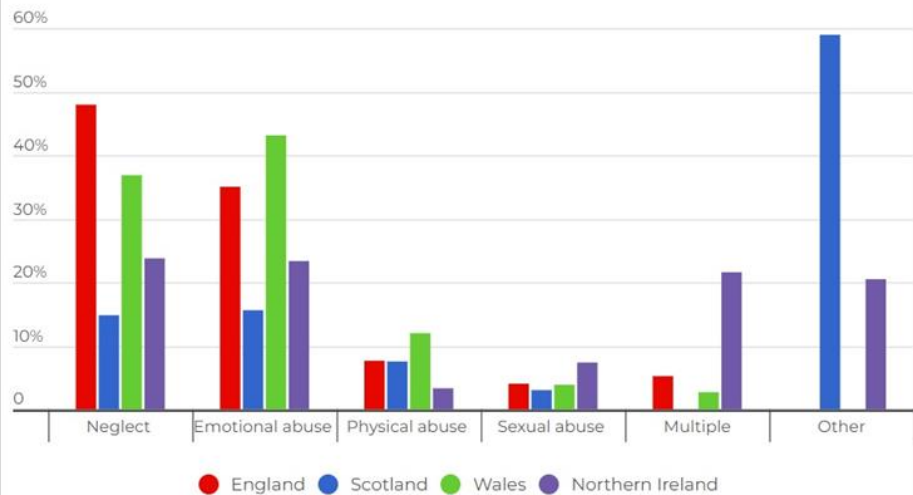
Assessment Component 1 Presentation



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Categories of abuse for which children were subject to a Child Protection Plan (CPP) or on the Child Protection Register (CPR), United Kingdom, at 31 March 2018



*(Children in the child protection system –
RCPCH – State of Child Health, 2020)*

Case study

- Single parent (37 years old)
- 3 children: 13 years; 9 years and 2 years old
- CPP
- Alcohol misuse
- Domestic violence
- Anti-social behaviour
- Not regularly sent to school
- Improved after 11 months due to the Families Unit that worked with them

Parental substance misuse

- Alcohol misuse/ Alcoholism
- lower risk (drinking fewer than 14 units per week); increasing-risk (regularly consuming between 14 and 35 units)
- Binge drinking if exceeds 6 units on a single occasion (*No child left behind Understanding and quantifying, 2020*)



The main issue of the case study

- Neglecting due to alcohol consumption
- Physical abuse
- Abusive relationship
- Developmental issues



Impact of the factors of vulnerabilities on children's health and wellbeing

- Living space might not remain clean due to the neglect
- Not being able to pay for food, clothing etc due to spending money on alcohol
- Physical abuse
- Eventual impact on brain development
- Psychological effects such as problems building relationships (*Parental substance misuse, 2021*)
- Increased risk of obesity, eating disorders, and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (*Parental Alcohol Misuse and Children, 2018*)



Impact of parental substance misuse on child and young people

- Poor response to children's needs
- No encouragement
- Might become an object of bullying at school
- Effects the child in many ways: physically, emotionally, psychologically (*Parental substance misuse, 2021*)
- Socially isolated
- Eventually having to take care of a parent misusing alcohol or a sibling (*Parental Alcohol Misuse and Children, 2018*)



Children Act 1989

- Concept of parental responsibility
- Children's welfare is before court
- Believes that a child is best looked after their family except if an intervention is essential
- Places duty to local authorities
- "Welfare checklist" (*Children Act 1989, 1989*)



The process of intervention by relevant health and social care agencies and results

- Not all agencies work with children on CPP
- CPP is being discussed at a conference
- Core group identification regarding the risk
- Parent is encouraged to attend group meetings
- Local Family Units support family
- Length of process <2 years (*Roberts, no date*)



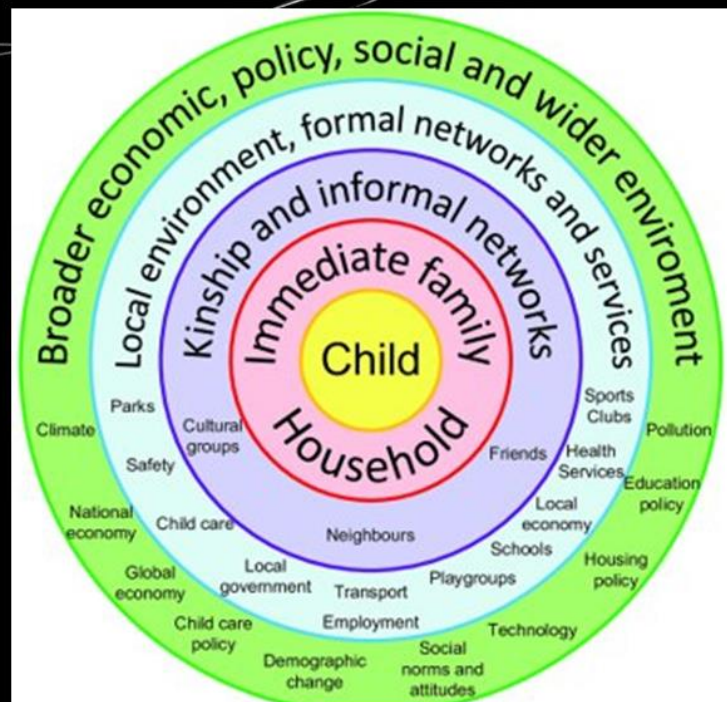
Related Policies and Legislation

- Children and Families Act 2014
- The United Nations convention on the Rights of the Child 1992
- The Human Rights Act 1998
- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018
- The Children and Social work Act 2017
- The Education Act 2002



Conclusion

We should always think of the child in risk first and what would be best for the child itself. Its family should remain around and through the different interventions the situations can be improved



Recommendations

- Interventions in the UK :
 - **Family Drug and Alcohol Courts (FDAC)**
 - **The Option 2 Programme**
 - **M-PACT** (*Moving Parents and Children forward Together*) (*Parental Alcohol Misuse and Children, 2018*)



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