

Assessment

Assessment Component 1

Written Report- Bradford case study

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Introduction

The family, the core of our society, is the place where our first emotions appear, the place where we begin to develop as individuals a character and an attitude that will follow us all our lives. From the beginning of human history, the family has been the link between the individual and society, assuming the role of the basic institution in the development of individual social behavior (WHO, 1978). Unfortunately, the social and economic environment and the actions of those around us, family, school, friends, etc., can make their mark on our behavior, influencing our physical and mental development. Childhood should be the most beautiful stage of life, but it can turn into a nightmare due to domestic abuse and neglect, and the consequences of parental behavior can directly impact on children's education (Lindberg, 2020).

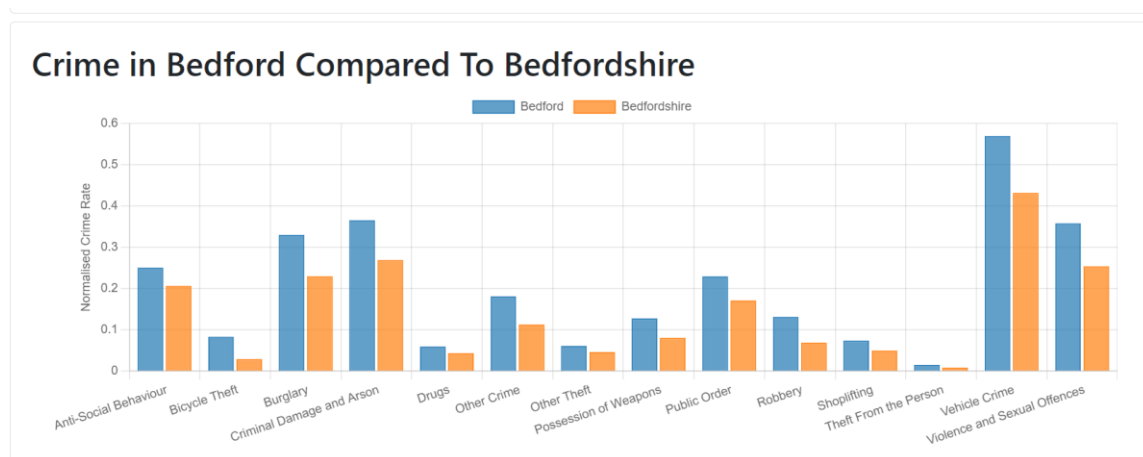
In the report, we will identify and analyze the risk factors in the case study and investigate how social services have been involved to support and help each family member. In this case, we can recognize the lack of parent-child relationships, the non-involvement of the parent in social life and education. Those factors push the children to learn and display socially inappropriate behavior. Examining the case can be identified aspects related to general neglect, which are reflected in the behavior and children education. So taking into account the family situation and risk factors, it is recommended the intervention of the social services department to provide urgent administrative, physical and mental support to both parents and children.

Case study

Julia, single mother of six children, four boys, and two girls Tom, Ricky, Leo, Charley, Kia, Donna, and the children's aunt Sonia are the subject of our case study. From the beginning, we can identify the absence of the children's father.

Fathers play an important role in a child's life. The absence of the father can emotionally and mentally affect the child's development in extreme cases involving self-harm or criminal activities. The absence of the father in social life and in the education of the child can be considered as a factor of vulnerability, children raised without a father can develop traumas throughout life (Guertin, 2021).

According to the "Bedford crime and safety statistics ", Bedford is the city with the highest risk factor and is in the top ten localities with the highest crime rate in Bedfordshire county. Nationally, Bedford ranks 29th in a ranking of the most dangerous major cities, with a crime rate of 29% higher than in the rest of Bedfordshire in 2020.



<https://crimerate.co.uk/bedfordshire/bedford>

In most cases, one of the major factor of vulnerability is played by the local community. Always a place with an advanced risk of crime and poverty will negatively affect the behavior of family members. The community is part of our daily lives and our behavior in society can have a boomerang effect. In Julia's family, behaviors that involve criminal activity seem to displease other members of the community who end up taking extreme measures to make the family leave the community. Tomorrow's insecurity and poverty are risk factors that also lead to inappropriate behavior in society. The basic elements for the good functioning of the family are related to the house, food and financial stability. When this balance is broken the family may go into physical, mental and emotional decline (Sandstrom and Huerta, 2013).

Financial instability and social problems together with the abusive use of parental substances lead in most cases to criminal behavior that affects both physically and mentally the individual.

Nowadays, substance misuse (alcohol, illegal drugs or any other medical product use in inappropriate way) have become a national problem (NSPCC, 2018). People of all ages use substance misuse for various reasons, these reasons differ from individual to individual, but it is certain that, for whatever reason is drugs have devastating consequences both physically and mentally .(NICE2021). Drug addiction is more common in communities at high risk of crime and poverty and the most common drugs in the UK being cocaine, cannabis and ecstasy. Heroin and opium are also common drugs among people in degenerate areas social, heroin been considered a high-risk drug that can cause serious health problems. (NICE 2021).

Drug addiction can change the individual's behaviors in the bad way. Many users become addicted to drugs and this brings additional problems in their lives, family neglect, loss of jobs, inability to pay rent, bills, mortgages, etc. All of these things can lead to mental and emotional

imbalances affecting both parents and children. Children raised in families where drugs are used may feel insecure, physically and emotionally neglected, in some cases blaming themselves for their parents' habits.

Look over Julia's attitude towards the family and the fact that over time she had a criminal behavior we can say with certainty that there are concerns about the general neglect of children and the fact that Sonia children's aunt takes care of them confirms this. Drug addiction, prostitution, and criminal behavior are just some of the risk factors to which family members are subjected. The absence of the father and the mother's behavior affected the school situation and the children's behavior. The lack of a role model in Tom's life and the social conditions in which the family lives have led to the development of his criminal behavior. The fact that he was involved with the youth offending team is not accidental, is due to the neglect he had at an early age from the parents. Moreover, the fact that none of the children attend school regularly and three of the boys have developed inappropriate behavior being expelled from school is also factors of vulnerability. Finally, leaving aside the fact that he participates only in a very small percentage of the nursery, the youngest child is behind with immunizations and this is a risk factor for him.

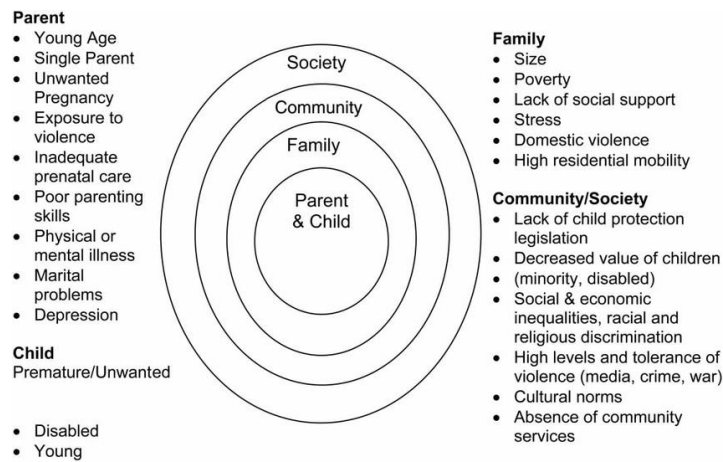
Impact of risk factors

	Risk factors	Impact on children
Julie	Julie – single parent with 6 children, periodically absent from the family home. involved in criminal behavior suspected involved in prostitution, Substance misusing Julie and children live in deprived area, with the risk of eviction and community high poverty rate. Children are exposed to neglect	➤ Children do not have a stable available care giver. For them is difficult to build up a trustful relationship with the caregiver and they may develop attachment disorder ➤ Mother's substance misusing may impact on her capacity to exercise parenting role prevent her react immediately if children are in a danger or keep them safe. ➤ Children do not have a stable home

Tom	Was involved with the youth offending team due to his criminal behavior.	environment emotional providing them with stability, security and sense of being valued. ➤ School nonattendance could impact on children's intellectual development and minimize their chance to succeed in their professional life. ➤ Children display behavior issue: poor regulation, aggression, risky taking behavior. ➤ Children have difficulty I controlling emotions ➤ Missing medical appointment could lead Dona to have a poor immune system which makes her vulnerable to infections and diseases. ➤ Children could develop poor coping skills, Low self-esteem, and social isolation and as consequences all of this may affect their mental health.
Ricky	Permanent exclusion from school and supposed to be attending alternative provision.	
Leo		
Charley		
Kia		
Donna	Behind with immunization lack of attending educational provision	

Author source

Analyzing the case, we can determine that Julia's family is facing adversity, substance abuse, poverty, criminal behaviour, social and environmental problems are risk factors that can directly affect the health and well-being of family members. When children are raised in poverty, the probability of not attending school or committing criminal acts is very high (Pedowitz, 2021). Also, family drug use can lead to both physical and mental disorders among children, in our case we can see how all these risk factors have a particular impact on children's education and social behaviour. Likewise, it has been shown that the association between poverty and parental misuse leads to general neglect (Shaw, Egan and Gillespie, 2007) .

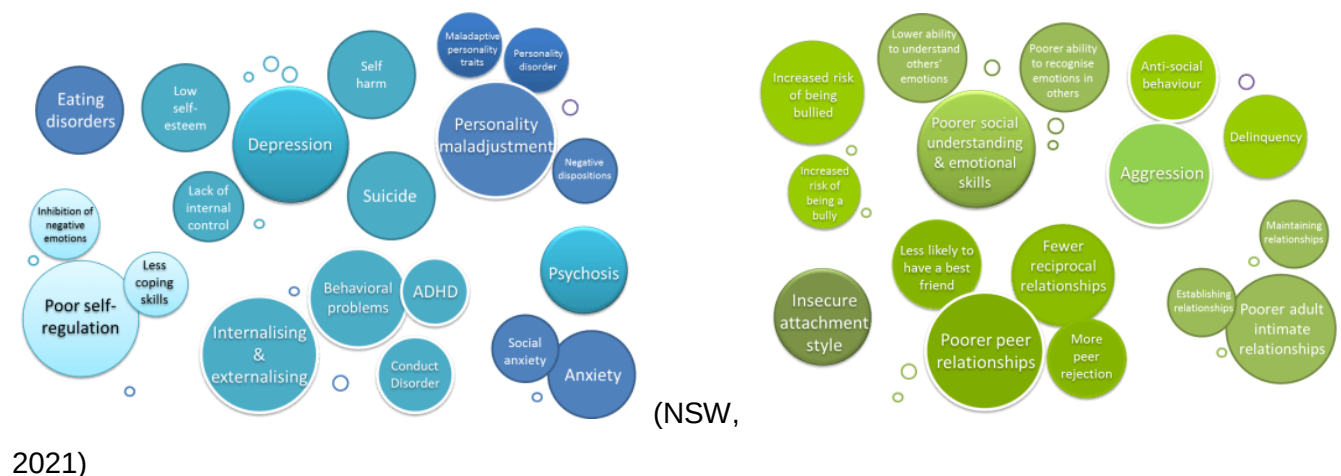


Risk factors for child violence and neglect (Council of Europe). (Evans, Garner and Honi , 2014)

In order to understand the impact of neglect on children, we must first define the term neglect. According to NSPCC “Neglect is the on-going failure to meet a child's basic needs and the most common form of child abuse ”(NSPCC, 2021). Any form of physical or emotional neglect can have a negative impact on the child's life, the child can develop physical and mental issues. Neglect can also be associated with negative behavioural changes that children develop in childhood and adolescence. Children who have experienced various forms of neglect are more likely to develop physical and mental health issues, also to adopt criminal or anxious behavior in society.

The impact of neglect on behavior, mental health and wellbeing on relational and social outcomes

The impact of neglect



The assessment, intervention of multi-agency and results.

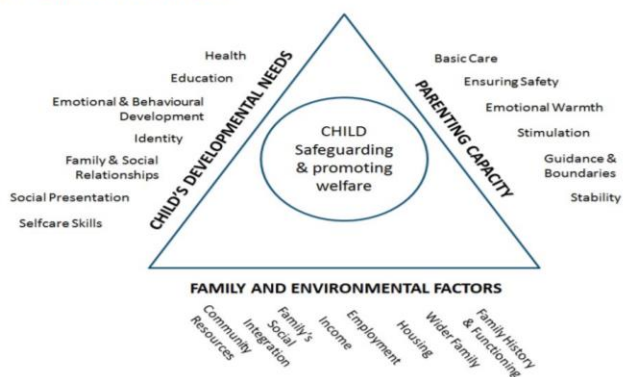
According to The Universal Declaration of Human Rights 'Article 25 "Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, etc. "(Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948).

Nowadays, most families enjoy a decent life, but there are also families who fail to cope on their own due to various risk factors. In these families, the most affected are children for that reason the intervention of social service is imperative. Every child is unique and has different needs. According to The Children's Act of 1989, section 17 a child will be considered in need if he does not meet decent living standards without the help of local authorities. Also when the health, education, and social behavior of children are endangered we can say that they are children with special needs and in this case, the children's service has the duty to provide help and support. The duty of social services in accordance with sections 17 is to protect and help children to develop in areas where they are deficient and to make this possible a good collaboration between services and with parents is strongly recommended.

Assessing needs under section 17

The local authority has a duty to provide support and protection to the families in need. The support usually is given to families in planned and strategic way. Initially the family with the children must be referred to the social services for a Social care assessment. Every child is evaluating base on the assessment framework.

Assessment Framework

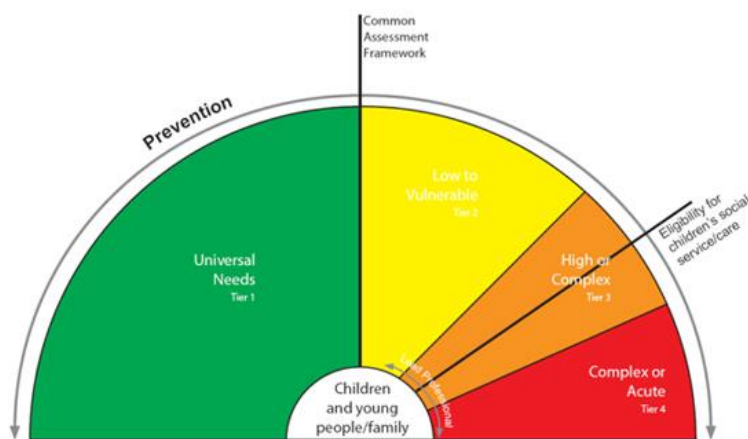


(Department of Health 2000)

In this case the social care assessment was completed by a qualified social worker, assessing children's developmental needs, parenting capacity and family and environmental factors. The social worker established that children do not meet the conditions of decent well-being and

health, which affect the physical and mental development of the child (The Children's Act of 1989) they became subject of child in need plan. The help may be provided under section 17 of the Children Act 1989 (children in need). Where there are child protection concerns (reasonable cause to suspect a child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm) local authority must make enquiries to escalate to the Child Protection under section 47 of the Children Act 1989. (Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2018).

It appear that Local Authority worked together with all agency working with the family and they coordinated the actions plan to keep children safe and prevent escalating of the vulnerability. Following the Procedure they discussed the case at the Planning Meeting provides an opportunity for a children an mother together with key agencies, to identify and agree the package of services required and to develop the Child in Need Plan (Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2018).



(Children in Need, 2021)

Family members	Agency interventions	Protective factors
Julia	-drug addiction support -complete an educational course in basic literacy. - parenting course - Julia and children have been rehoused Once the family moved into their new home, the key worker helped them to get the home in decent order.	-stopped criminal behavior -Increase parental capacity - reduce the drug using -the family was given short-term tenancy in a good are and in compliance with the family the intervention plan was written into the tenancy requirements. - reduce the contact with the people involved in criminal activity
Sonia	-join the Family Links Nurturing program - budgeting, debt advice -Sonia began to take a more active role and attended parents' evenings.	-Implementing the knowledge acquired in the daily life of children - Children all the time have available caregiver - all the bills are paid, offering children stable place to live
Tom	-completed his youth offending team order successfully	-moved in with his father - his departure from the family home has a positive impact on the behavior of other children
Children	Intensive work in order to hold the family together	-School attendance improved -reduces the incidence of getting involved in antisocial behavior/criminal activity

Autor source

Conclusion

The success of this case reside in the fact that social worker get around the table all the professionals involved with the family schools, nursery, hosing department, youth offending team, drugs support project, health visitor, the family has been connected to the relevant program as parenting program and educational course in basic literacy.

The social care assessment offers exhaustive analyze and evaluation of the risks and protective factors from different agency for each children and family in general. This information laid for a robust child in need plan designed to prevent and improve the needs in the future and empower family to keep children safe. It is positive that extend family member Sonia has been involved in the plan but I consider she took more responsibility on her than children's mother. There is risk if Sonia will leave the home, the situation can deteriorate.

In my point of view to get a more robust plan in place it is paramount for the social worker to assess children's father/fathers in order to understand if they are suitable to get active part in children's life and contribute to their safety.

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