



Children, Young People and Families
(BMHP5004_LON)

Amina Abdallah Nassor 1917570

Assessment Component 1

Case study - Written Report

August 24, 2021

Table of content

Introduction	2
Case Study	2
Impact of drugs misuse	2
Case study assessment	3
Intervention of the current policy and the roles of multi-agencies	4
Evaluation of the current policy and the roles of multi-disciplinary services	5
Recommendation	6
Conclusion	7
References	8

Introduction

This report analyses a case about a family facing adversity such as substances misuse and involvement with criminal justice system, which made children to be vulnerable. Also, it will assess and evaluate the interventions that family has been get from multi-agencies to provide the wellbeing of the children.

Vulnerable children are children below 18 years old whose safety, physical or psychosocial wellbeing is in danger due to poor protection, care, or access to the key resources and services. The vulnerability of children is accepted by the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), which emphasizes the need of the protection and care to children by demanding government to have measures to prevent and protect children from maltreatment and supporting parent's responsibilities to meet child-rearing via the development of services, facilities, and institutions, (Falch-Eriksen and Backe-Hansen, 2018). According to the estimation of the Children's Commissioner for childhood vulnerability, 2.3 million of children in England are at risk due to the background of their vulnerable family, thus about 723,000 children currently receiving statutory support (Children's Commissioner, 2019). However, there are some factors influenced their vulnerability and obstruct their development, these factors include parental substance misuse, domestic violence, and child abuse (NSPCC, 2021).

Case Study

The Bradford family of single mother Julie, who misused drugs (heroin), was living with her six children, two girls and four boys (Tom, Charley, Ricky, Leo, Donna and Kia), and children's aunt Sonia. The family involved on anti-social and criminal behaviour such as substance misuse, robbery, criminal damage, prostitution, shoplifting, begging, and rowdy behaviour, which enforced them to live in demolition area. Also, all of children were not attending school daily. Therefore, due to this behaviour, the family had been known to many services for several years because there were concerns about neglect of the children (Communities.gov.uk).

Impact of drugs misuse

Parents who misuse drugs have difficulty in recognising and properly responding to their own and failed in providing consistent and effective care and support to their children's emotional and physical needs. Therefore, the children of parents who are reliant on drugs are develop behaviour challenges such as attaining low education and be themselves vulnerable to develop substance misuse (NSPCC, 2021).

Case study assessment

In this case study the assessment was done in three main aspects, parental capacity, family and environmental factors, and child developmental needs. According to NSPCC one of the elements of assessing parental capacity is the ability of the parents meeting their children health and developmental needs (NSPCC, 2014). However, in this case study the parental capacity was very low, because of the heroin addiction, the mother had chaotic and unpredictable lifestyles which make her difficulty to recognise and meet her children's needs that put her children being at risk of harm (NSPCC, 2021).

Also, the children developmental need was very poor as mother suspected prostitution to fund her heroin habit. Therefore, due to the prostitution act ,a mother failed acknowledging and putting her children needs first by providing them routine and consistent care, instead most of the time she was absent from home and let her children running around all day, which resulted some of her children, especially the youngest one, to be beyond immunisations, poor school attendance, and caused three of her boys excluded permanently (NSPCC, 2014).

Moreover, family, and environmental factors was very low because family social integration was very poor as a family involved on antisocial and criminal behaviour, including shoplifting, substance misuse, criminal damage, rowdy behaviour, convictions for robbery, and begging, that made a problem at their neighbourhood as their neighbour did not want them to live at the area. Therefore, the neighbours forced them to leave from the area by smashing their windows which make them have a problem with housing and they were at a risk of losing the house (Communities.gov.uk).

Assessment Framework

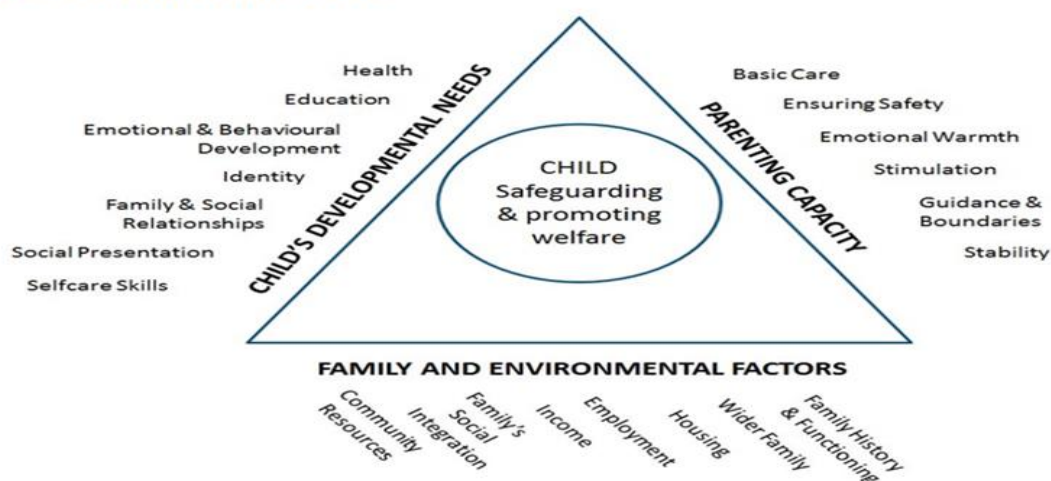


Image: Source: Working Together to Safeguard Children A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children' (2018).

Intervention of multi-agencies

Because this family was at risk, the specific intervention was required. According to the Children Act 1989, considering a child at risk, practitioners should focus on the following questions: 'Is this a Child in Need?' (Section 17 Children Act 1989), 'Is there reasonable cause to suspect that this child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, Significant Harm?' (Section 47 Children Act 1989), and 'Is this a child in need of accommodation?' (Section 20 or Section 31A Children Act 1989). (Department for Education, 2021). If these questions have yes answered the government through local authorities and other multi-agencies should working together to safeguard the children wellbeing, as Section 10 of the Children Act 2004 required local authority, their relevant partners, and other bodies who are involved in children to make arrangement for children protection from neglect and harm (Children Act 2004).

Therefore, the intervention in this case study was based on the assessment framework Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) and United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1991). The Equality Act 2010 ensures that every child has equal access to the health and social care services and support, therefore, the professionals should remove any barrier to equal access (Children's Rights Alliance for England, 2021). Also, Working Together to Safeguard Children is a statutory guidance on inter-agency working to promote and safeguard the welfare of children by protecting them against maltreatment, preventing their health, and ensuring they grow up in environments surrounding with effective care, safe, and protected from harm (HM Government, 2018). Therefore, there were different professionals working together to support this family to have a good life, includes the Education officers, key workers, and housing officer (HM Government, 2018).

However, all this action related to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) of 1991, as the UK signed the convention, the government has responsibilities ensuring all the children rights that mentions on that convention are protected. Therefore, the government implement those responsibilities through the social workers and local authorities (UNICEF, 2021). As the article 28 stated to protect the right to education, in this case study the children had low school attendance, hence, the intervention ensured the improvement of children's school attendance whereby the social service intervention ensured every child could go back to school and enjoy the right of education. Also, in recent years to strengthening education the government working together with multi-professional team to give schools a better role in future statutory guidance for safeguarding children. And article 24 stated that the children should receive the best possible health, so the social workers working with multi-agencies to make sure that children could really receive the care and best possible health (UNICEF, 2021). Also, article 26 of the Convention state that the government should provide

social security such as financial assistance to family in need as this family had experienced financial difficulty, that was why they involved on robbery, prostitution, and begging to fulfil their financial needs. So, if a local authorities ignore a family in need, they will go against the article 26 of the UNCRC (UNICEF, 2021). Moreover, article 27 for adequate standard of living, whereby standard of living is the right for every child which can help them to meet their physical and social needs, and support their development, (UNICEF, 2021). In this case study, because the family was living on demolition area, the housing providers offered them new social housing tenancy

Evaluation of the current policy and the roles of multi-disciplinary services

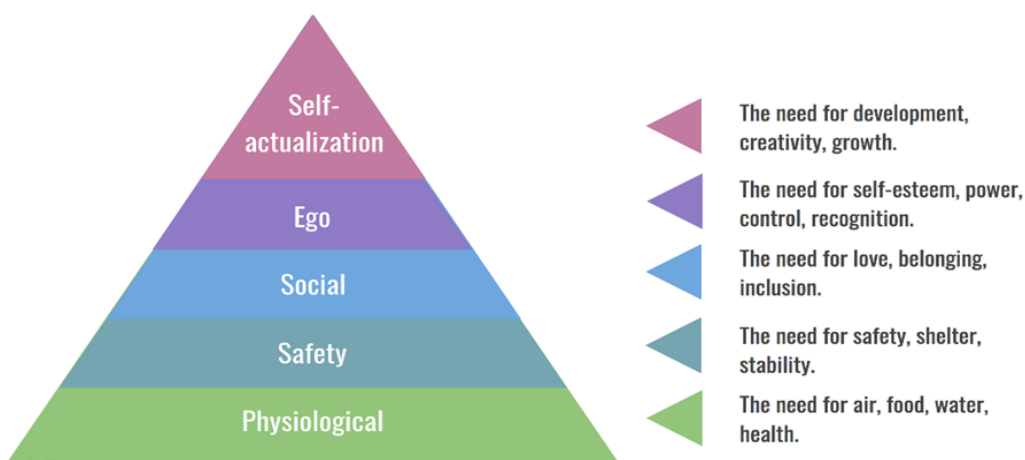
Children cannot be safeguarded without being provided with care, food, housing, education, and health (Falch-Eriksen and Backe-Hansen, 2018). Therefore, the interaction between the different types of rights and legislations is important to protect the children, the statutory framework of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 (Children Act 1989, Children Act 2004, and the Equality Act 2010) and UNCRC 1991 played important role in protecting the rights, health, and safety of the children by promoting a child-centred approach, whereby the needs and interests of the child are the most important thing to be considered (HM Government, 2018). Therefore, these acts and policies protects children from victimisation regarding to education, housing, clubs, and the provision of services.

Therefore, the intervention brought the family together despite of Julie and Sonia mistrustful and worried of agency involvement would lead to the children being taken into care. On contrast, the social workers followed framework of the Children Act 1989 which states that family should be kept together when possible and did not remove the children from their family (HM Government, 2018). Thus, removing children from their family can cause the children suffer from trauma of being separated from their family. therefore, Julie family and the key workers worked intensively together on several agreed actions to improve the wellbeing of the children by improving children's school attendance for 99%. Also, the multi-agency referred Julie to local drugs support project to stop substance misuse and complete an educational course in basic literacy which helped her to stop criminal and other antisocial behaviour. Moreover, the family was almost losing their home, but through the intervention of housing provider the family had get new decent home (Communities.gov.uk). Nevertheless, the intervention project through the Family Links Nurturing Programme helped Sonia to improve budgeting, debt, parenting, and relationship skills routines for the children (Communities.gov.uk).

Therefore, the assessment and the intervention of this case study based to personalised of the individual needs of the children involved as Maslow theory of hierarchy believed that 'if

human lower-level deficiency needs were not met, higher level growth needs would be impaired' (Noltemeyer et al, 2020). Hence, to achieve need for development, creativity, and growth of the children, the need for air, food, water, and health should be achieved first. Therefore, the intervention of different professionals from NHS, housing officers, education officers, social workers, teachers, police, youth officer provides good guidance for holistic approach by putting children interest and need at the base of the care and services. These holistic needs are related to the physical, intellectual, emotional, and social needs (Noltemeyer et al, 2020).

Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs



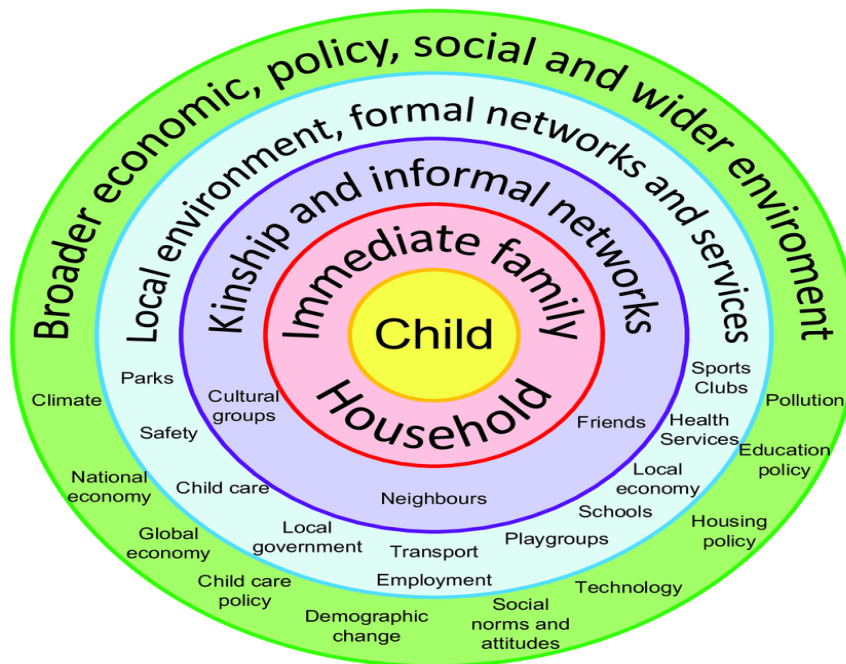
Source: [Maslow theory of hierarchy - Bing images](#)

Recommendation

Despite of many interventions to safeguard the children development, it is better to provide more services to them including provision of free school meals to all children. All Reception, Years 1 and 2 pupils, in England and Scotland, can obtain free school meals through term, irrespective to their household income. However, from year 3 on ward only children living in with household income not exceed £7,400 (after tax) are eligible for free school meals (BBC, 2020). Therefore, it is better for the government to provide free school meals to all children which will help family financially by putting less stress on providing lunch pack or paying school meals for their children and.

Conclusion

Therefore, it is very important to provide better and appropriate universal services for children, including more services to prevent difficulties and support families facing adversity because it is not only the family that influence a child, but there are several factors that influence the children vulnerability such as informal network and services, socioeconomic situation, social and wider environment as Bronfenbrenner theory of children development suggested (Guy-Evans, 2020).



Source: [Bronfenbrenner theory - Bing images](#)

References

BBC. (2020). Free school meals: How many children can claim them? (online). Available at: <https://www.bbc.com/news/54693906> (Accessed on 24/08/2021).

Children's Rights Alliance for England. (2021). Children's Rights & the Law: Equality Act 2010. (online). Available at: <http://www.crae.org.uk/childrens-rights-the-law/laws-protecting-childrens-rights/equality-act-2010/> (Accessed on 17/08/2021).

Children's Commissioner. (2019). Childhood vulnerability in England 2019. (online). Available at: <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/report/childhood-vulnerability-in-england-2019/> (Accessed on 17/08/2021).

Communities.gov.uk (undated) Troubled Families: Case studies. (online). Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/10961/Troubled_families_case_studies.pdf (Accessed: 23/08/2021).

Department for Education. (2021). The Children Act 1989 guidance and regulations Volume 2: care planning, placement, and case review. (online). Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1000549/The_Children_Act_1989_guidance_and_regulations_Volume_2_care_planning_placement_and_case_review.pdf (Accessed on 14/08/2021).

Falch-Eriksen, A. and Backe-Hansen, E. (2018). Human Rights in Child Protection: Implications for Professional Practice and Policy. Palgrave Macmillan. Norway

Guy-Evans. O. (2020). Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Systems Theory. (online). Available at: <https://www.simplypsychology.org/Bronfenbrenner.html> (Accessed on 12/08/2021).

HM Government. (2018). Working Together to Safeguard Children: A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. (online). Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/942454/Working_together_to_safeguard_children_inter_agency_guidance.pdf (Accessed on 16/08/2021).

Legislation.gov.uk. (2004). Children Act 2014. (online). Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/31/section/10> (Accessed on 24/08/2021).

Noltemeyer, A., James. A., Bush, K., and Bergen, D. (2020). The Relationship between Deficiency Needs and Growth Needs: The Continuing Investigation of Maslow's Theory. (online). Available at:

<https://doi.org/10.1080/0145935X.2020.1818558> (Accessed on 17/08/2021).

NSPCC. (2014). Assessing parenting capacity: An NSPCC factsheet. (online). Available at: <https://www.theministryofparenting.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/factsheet-assessing-parenting-capacity8.pdf> (Accessed on 23/08/2021).

NSPCC. (2021). Parental substance misuse: Impact of parental substance misuse. (online). Available at: <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/children-and-families-at-risk/parental-substance-misuse> (Accessed on 17/08/2021).

UNICEF. (2021). Children's Rights, Simplified: United Nations convention on the rights of the child. (online). Available at: <https://www.unicef.org.au/our-work/information-for-children/un-convention-on-the-rights-of-the-child> (Accessed on 11/08/2021).