

Assessment Component 1

Case study - Written Report

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Introduction

Child vulnerability refers to the risk of harm, neglect, abuse, or exploitation due to various factors (NSPCC, 2023). This case study presents a scenario of a young person misusing

drugs and involved in illegal activities, highlighting their vulnerabilities and interventions, health and social care agencies provide support and interventions. This report discusses policies, legislation, and theories guiding interventions. The goal is to ensure safety and well-being and provide support to achieve potential.

Case study

A nuclear family comprises a mother, father, and their children living together in the same household, typically in a committed relationship or marriage. (The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica, 2019)

A young person, living with both parents who is age 17 and misusing drugs. Due to this drug addiction, parents don't want him living with them. He has dropped out of high school at the age 16 and is suffering from depression and anxiety. The young man is unemployed and has no interest in finding work. He is involved in selling fake tickets to fund for drugs and this has left his parents in financial misery.

Vulnerabilities identified within case study:

- Possible physical vulnerabilities may arise from drug misuse (Verywell Health, n.d.).
- Emotional vulnerabilities exist due to the young person's anxiety and depression, increasing their susceptibility to drug misuse (Feilden, 2020).
- Social vulnerabilities include dropping out of high school and lacking employment, putting the young person at risk of financial insecurity, social isolation, and limited economic opportunities (Feilden, 2020).
- Environmental vulnerabilities: If the young person is in an environment where drugs are easily accessible or there is a lack of social support or resources, this could further contribute to their vulnerability (Feilden, 2020).
- Legal vulnerabilities: Selling fake concert tickets online is illegal and can result in criminal charges.
- Financial vulnerabilities: The young person's drug habit and illegal activities have put a significant financial strain on their family.

Factors of vulnerability

The vulnerability of young individuals can be attributed to various factors, including substance misuse, engagement with the criminal justice system, mental health concerns, neglect, and the geographical location of their residence, where drugs are readily available.

The impact of these factors

Misusing drugs impact: it can have negative impacts on physical and mental health, social and economic status, and overall well-being (Dorwart, 2022).

Involvement in the criminal justice system: can lead to social stigma, legal consequences, and difficulty finding employment and housing (Howell et al., 2022).

Mental health problems: can affect an individual's overall well-being and ability to function in daily life. Mental health problems can lead to difficulties with relationships, work or school performance (Verywell Health, n.d.).

Neglect: can lead to feelings of abandonment, low self-esteem, and lack of self-worth. These feelings could contribute to substance misuse as a coping mechanism (Howe, 2017).

Location: certain areas may have higher rates of violence, crime, and substance misuse. Living in an area with a high crime rate or a high incidence of substance misuse can increase an individual's risk of exposure to harm and negative experiences (Howell et al., 2022).

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

There are several health and social care agencies that may become involved to provide intervention and support to the young person and his family. These agencies may include, substance misuse services, mental health services, housing services, education and training services. The process of intervention will begin with an assessment, care plan based on this assessment, implementation of care plan, monitoring progress, and review of effectiveness of care plan (SCIE, 2014).

Actions of social services with the family

Assess the risk and support needed by the family first. If necessary, remove the young person and provide foster care or residential facilities. Offer support and resources to the parents to handle their financial problems and their son's drug addiction. Collaborate with law enforcement to deal with criminal involvement. Goal: ensure safety, well-being, and necessary support for the young person and their family.

Results and outcomes

The young person receives treatment and support for his drug addiction and mental health issues, which can lead to improved physical and emotional well-being.

Criminal activities such as selling fake tickets is addressed and stopped, which can prevent further harm to his family and the community.

The parents receive support and resources to address their financial difficulties and cope with their son's drug addiction.

The young person and his family receive counselling and other support services to help them address underlying issues such as trauma or family conflict.

With the right support and interventions, the young person may be able to complete his education and find employment.

Policy and legislation related to safeguarding children and young people

Children Act 1989 and 2004: These Acts provide the legal framework for the protection and welfare of children in England and Wales (NSPCC, 2022).

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018. Young person to be kept away from harm and protected.

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021. It aims to provide a comprehensive framework for safeguarding children and young people in educational settings (Department for Education, 2022). Young person to get back into educational setting and keep out of trouble.

These policies and legislation provide the legal and regulatory framework for safeguarding children and young people in the UK.

Theories guiding interventions of social services in case of safeguarding issues

Attachment theory: This theory emphasizes the importance of secure attachment relationships in promoting healthy development (Howe, 2017). Need to work with the family to establish and replenish relationship.

Cognitive-behavioural theory: This theory emphasizes the role of thoughts, emotions, and behaviours in shaping human behaviour (Howe, 2017). Can help the young person with his mental health by developing more adaptive cognitions and behaviours.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The case study highlighted a young person facing drug addiction, mental health issues, and involvement in criminal activities, with identified vulnerabilities in physical, emotional, social, environmental, legal, and financial aspects. Interventions involve assessment, care planning, implementation, monitoring, and review, guided by theories such as attachment and cognitive-behavioural theory. Legislation related to safeguarding children includes Children Act 1989 and 2004, Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018, and Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021. The goal is to ensure safety and well-being while addressing underlying issues.

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Appendix

Present the Case

- 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,

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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)

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