



Student name: Ogo-oluwa Mafimisebi

Student ID: 1914926

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Lecturer name: Bianca Sanfilippo

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Introduction:

This report is about a case study in regard of a family, coping with adversity. Whereby the mother is involved with criminal justice system, substance misuse and general neglect of the children. And the report will still move on to headlight all the factor that contribute to children being at risk of vulnerability and the consequences.

The report is still going to analysis the effectiveness of the multi-agency and the local authority social worker approach and intervention, that involved in the process as well as the present decision-making processes and policy. The report we still move a little bit to evaluate and discuss current case management initiatives and policy used by all the professional's services, to deal effectively with the various forms of needs and vulnerabilities of the families that involved in the case study.

Presentation of the Case Study.

This case study is about a family composed of single mother of six children, 4 boys, 2 girls and a sister who is now an aunty to her children and they all based in Bradford in an estate earmarked for destruction. This family was facing adversities, as the mother is involved in anti-social behaviour, always away from home, getting involved with the criminal justice system, and at the same time neglecting the children, also doing prostitution and shoplifting to fund her drug misuse, begging, rowdy behaviour.

And her eldest child has been implicated with young offending team as a result of his history within criminal justices' system (GOV. UK, 2014), while the youngest child in the family is behind with immunisation and no one of the children is attending school on regular basic, while their aunty is the one, looking after them as their primary carer according to the case study. The local council was involved and there were thinking of getting the children into care and was later deferred after serious consideration by the council on the condition that the family will work and engaged with key worker to improve the situation.

A conditional short-term, new social housing tenancy agreement, that included intervention plan was offer to them on the ground that the family must cooperate with services or risk been throw out from the current address. The mother was sent to local drug support project and went on to complete an education programme. And the children aunt, later work with the Family Links Nurturing Programme organized by the intervention project to improve her relationship and parenting skills.

And the workers also engaged her intensively on debt advice, implementing routines for children and budgeting and it was a positive outcome, for the family as the children school attendance improve above 90% and their mother stopped her criminal activities and the amount of unsuitable guess to their address decreased. The eldest child later successfully completed his youth offending team, although still involved in anti-social character but later left the household to live with his father, which really have positive impact on his siblings.

Vulnerability.

Vulnerability (IFRC, 2021) can be referred to as the diminished capacity of a group or individual to cope with, anticipate, recover and resist from the effect of a man-made or natural hazard.



Image1: Source: (Technology Networks, 2021).

The Risk Factor of Vulnerability.

The mother had a problem of drug misuse, and she is involved in prostitution to fund her drug used, always get herself involve with criminal justice system and anti-social behaviours, the children were not properly looked after. While the last born of the family, record of nursery attendance and immunisation is not encouraging, and the senior child has a problem with the youth offending team because of his record around the criminal justices as it can be seen in the case study above.

This makes these family different from other family as all these factors has made the children in need and vulnerable and make them subject of assessment as it was recognized a child in need, in accord to Children Act 1989, because children that live with families going through different adversities can be more at risk (NSPCC, 2021).

The Impact of Parent Drug Misuse on Children.

The consequences of parent substance misuse on family can really be profound or significant. Because according to Zuber (2021), it is believed that people with drug misuse did not really have the knowledge how the habit affects their family and friends. While the habit is a disease that can made them have another view about the way they reason, feel or behaves and they also often do things or say things that hurt friends and family. In some cases, they lie, and they might even go as far to steal money or do anything to fund their habit or they may neglect their duty to the family like, financial contribution or caring for the children (Zuber, 2021).

Why it can be seen in image 2 bellow that, parental drug misuse as contributed about twenty percent to children “in need” in this country and likewise that 38% of serious case reviewed in England, that drug misuse is involved according to Public Health England, (2017).

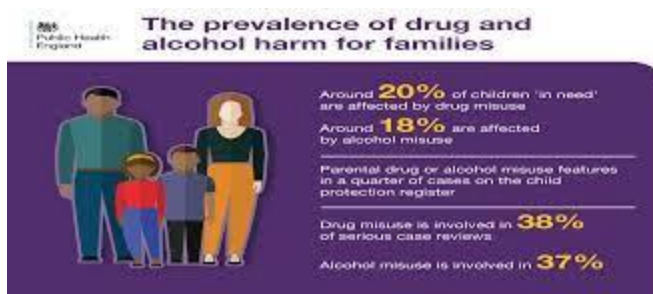


Image2: Source: (Public Health England, 2017)

Neglect: neglecting a child can happen as a result of parent substance misuse, which is the most popular way of child abuse in the United Kingdom at present, as it deprived children the good childhood they merit. Dashed aspiration and leaves families broken and likewise finding suggest that

up to 10% of children in this country experience neglect and some of the sign may be, when a child is poorly dressed or dirty, being hungry, going to school late or not collected back from school on time, not been taking to medical appointment and when there is cause of concern for his or her behaviour.

The effects on the children might be delay in early brain development, which may impact the way that influence how the child respond to other stimulating situation and stress in their early and later in life. They might also be difficulties in cognitive such as delay in language, inability to focus or express feelings and poor intellectual ability (Action For Children, 2010) poor school attendance, problem reaching their full potential and as a result of physical injuries due to improper supervision or lack of care which can also be cause as result of negligence.

The Impact of Parent Involvement Within the Criminal Justice System on children:

Parent that is engage within the criminal justice system, their children may encounter some host of difficulties and challenges such as, antisocial behaviour, psychological strain, criminal activity, economical hardship and they may even be expulsion or suspension from school, because the children might find it difficult to fare when their parent is continually or intermittently incarcerated. Myrna Raeder, (2012) also suggest that, the family of incarcerated person in most cases are regarded to as “hidden victims” which means victims of the criminal justice system that is not given a consideration to be heard or neither acknowledged, despite their similarities and prevalence to direct crime victim, they get very little help and they were disadvantage from these systemic societal mechanisms available generally to direct crime victims (Martin, 2017).

It is informed by finding, that parental involvement with the criminal justice system might have an adversely impact on children that has been associated with, changed in social learning surrounding, labelling, psychological, social strain and stigmatization. And that they might also be changes in the way the children behaved from before or after their parent incarceration (Murray, J. et al. 2012) Conviction, or arrest might lead to both economical strain within the family and emotional stress for the children as well and these problems might be factor that can result to negatives impact to the progression of youth problem behaviour of the children.

The experience of children experiencing the criminal justice system, normally comes with the shock of watching their home raided and suddenly separation ensues because a member of the family being arrested, and research concluded that this type of children might also feel a sense of loss which can be referred to as “ambiguous loss” that can lead to grief within the absence of the carer or parent. And the children are found to also be affected by lower self-esteem, that loss of confidence than that of the general citizen (Family Lives, 2017). Likewise, their emotional problems around this issue, manifested as problems with motivation, concentration and school assignment and even in some cases some children might abandon their education entirely.

Assessment And Intervention of Multi-agency.

This is at the time, the family local authority social worker gets a referrer, and the children became subject of assessment as it was believed that a child in need, according to the Children Act 1989, that gives the main principle as, children must be best take care of within their families. With their father and mother playing a full part in the children lives, unless necessary intervention in the family life is compulsory (Department for Education, 2021) and indicated the local authority’s responsibility, is to help gives services which will support family and their children.

The Children Act 1989: this Act requires local council to give proper regard to a child's wishes when considering what services to give under section 17 and before deciding about the action to be taken to protect the children.

The Equality Act 2010: this very Act, also put responsibility on public authorities, to make sure they always have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity and eliminate discrimination. As it might apply to process of recognizing of the need and risk encounter by the individual (GOV. UK, 1989)

UNCRC 1991: That the government must ensure and respect the right set forth in the current convention to every child within their jurisdiction without any kind of discrimination, irrespective of the child's parent or legal guardian's, colour, sex, race, religion, other opinion or political. Ethnic or social origin, disability and language.

And Article 24, say UK government must support child wellbeing and health, while 28 of the Article also give the UK government to protect the children right to education (GOV. UK, 2010)

While it is the parents and carers of a child who has the primary care for their child, local council working together with other agencies and organisations, have specific roles to safeguard and advocate for the welfare of all children in their surroundings. Section 17 of the Children Act 1989, require the local council to help provide services to children in need in their domain.

And section 10 of the Children Act 2004, that gives the local council duty as to makes provision in promoting co-operation within itself, agencies and organisation to improve general wellbeing of local child. And the partnership should be effective and exist at all levels of organisation, right from operational delivery to strategic level (HM Government, 2018)

Image3 Source: (HM Government, 2018)



The Intervention: this was based on the assessment framework “Working Together to

Safeguard Children A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children” (2018).

The framework of the assessment was based on:

Parenting capacity was very poor, as the mother is not always at home to look after the children, as that emotional warmth from their mother and father, basic care, and safety is not always available.

Environment and Family Factor was so bad, as no one is working in the family, with the family history of anti-social behaviour within the neighbourhood and mother involvement within criminal justice system and drug misuse and their house earmarked for demolition.

Child’s Developmental Need was not good enough as the children were not going to school on a regular basis, family social relationship around the area was so bad and the children always missed their health appointment.

Based on all these factors, the practitioners started supporting the family. And keeping the family together was their main concern in accord with the Children Act 1989. Children should be kept together with family. (Elvin, A. et al. 2019) Means, local council should do as much as they can, to make sure family are kept together.

Evaluation.

The outcome of the intervention has been impressive, for example the mother was able to stop her criminal behaviour and was sent to local drug support project also went on to acquire some basic education skill, new home was given, unsuitable guess to their home decreased. And the eldest Son, later successfully went and completed his young offending team order, still involved in anti-social behaviour, but eventually left the area to lives with his father which as had a positive impact on his brothers that make them to stop their anti-social behaviour.

The children aunt was given a job, Family Nurturing Programme. Manage by the intervention project to improve her parenting and relationship skill, and she was given more active role of looking after the children. Also, the children school attendance increases with over 90%. And the Children Act 1989, that say local authority should do all they can do to keep family together, has been the reason why the practitioners decided to keep the family together and their tenancy agreement on the new home was made permanent after they were impress by behavioural changes of the family.

Recommendation.

After consideration of some important details of this report, and the present policy used by social workers and the multi-agency worker, as it has based within the idea of Maslow’s hierarchy of needs, as it can be seen in image4 below. (Mcleod, 2020) That for someone to get to their full potential, they need to achieve firstly, physiological needs likes, food, accommodation, cloths, secondly, safety the like of employment, health etc, thirdly, belonging, making friendship and sense of belonging, fourthly, self-esteem, respect and freedom, finally, self-actualisation, desire for someone to achieve full potentials. And putting all this into action will really help any other family facing this type of problem.

Conclusion: it will be better to provide good universal services for children and additional services to help family coping with adversity that can likewise prevent difficulties for children in need to get appropriate help.

Maslow's
Need



Hierarchy of

Image4 Source:

(McLeod, 2020)

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