

Group work

Karl – Boyfriend

Alora – 3-year-old child

Hunny- Little sister (11 months)

Shelly – Mother

<u>Name</u>	<u>Job role</u>
Shannon	Social worker
Rosa	Health visitor
Beca	Headteacher
Anais	Family support worker
Isabelle	Police officer
Elysia	Substance misuse support worker

Scheduled practice sessions

Monday 25th November - 13:30

Wednesday 27th November – 19:30

To come in early Thursday 28th November for the final practice session.

Scenario add Ons

Alora attends a school-based nursery setting; Alora has shown new behavior such as inappropriate language when in the setting. Alora has shown signs of regression within her relationships with the other children, where she is becoming angry with others and lacking patience. Alora has started pushing and pulling the hair of the other children and within the last week has started to attend the setting smelling.

Alora has dirty clothes with a lack of hygiene, unbrushed teeth and a clear repeat of clothes from the previous days. Has greasy hair and an unkept appearance, very withdrawn.

When in the nursery, Alora would show signs of distress frequently at pick up time and repeatedly say she doesn't want to go home, she wants to stay at school.

Mother has been contacted and has been avoidant and non-cooperative; we have been informed that the police have attended to the home address on multiple occasions over the course of the last two months. There have been complaints from neighbors who are aware that children live at the address and raised concerns of neglect and abuse.

Karl dropped off Alora smelling of alcohol, when pick up time came Carl attended the pickup of Alora without Shelly. As Carl is unfamiliar with the setting, we explained contact would have to be made with Mum who would need to approve of pickup, but we could not get hold of Mum, we made it clear that he would not be allowed to take Alora with him. Karl then states that Mum is unwell and can't make pickup today, Carl became aggressive within school grounds and police were called.

Social services arrive to take Alora home as no other emergency contact is known to the school. When at the address with the police, Mother seemed distressed and reluctant to answer the door. When Mum was finally seen, there were clear signs of abuse, anxiety, in-denial and withdrawn behavior and recognition of a messy house. Empty alcohol bottles used nappies on the floor, dirty washing pile in the kitchen, old take-away containers in the living room and an unpleasant smell.

When visiting the home, Honey (11-month-old sister) represented a delay of development, including gross motor skills, lack of expression and interaction. She has been referred to the health visitor due to her lack of development. However, she is up to date with vaccines etc.

Police contacted social services, who then contacted headteacher and alcohol supporter regarding the children and help for Mum and Carl. When the headteacher was contacted, the headteacher believed it was appropriate to involve the health visitor and family support worker.

Since mum has split up with the children's father, mum has been inconsistent with her partners, this is the second time a referral was made, mum was attending regular support from all teams when she was single and was making good progression, since meeting Karl, mum stopped attending regular sessions and has clearly relapsed. Mum was prioritizing hers and the children's health and wellbeing, however, since Karl has come into the picture, she is doing quite the opposite.

In conclusion, we advised mum that Karl is not an appropriate adult to be around for herself and the children, Shelly has been receiving all the appropriate support and as a result, she has been making good progression. We have come to the conclusion that we are going to use the child protection plan (social workers needs to explain what the child protection plan is).

Group Script

Introduction (Shannon)

Good morning, everyone thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to attend this conference today. In accordance with the general data protection regulations (2018) (GDPR) throughout this conference we will only refer to the family by their first names.

My name is Shannon, and I am the family's social worker I will be coordinating this conference today.

The purpose of the conference is to bring together all the professionals who work with children to consider what is needed to support the family where we will all share information in regard to shelly, Alora and Hunny. Considering both the children's health and wellbeing, development and protection needs in which we will decide whether the children will be subject to a child protection plan.

From visits with the family, it was decided that due to the nature of the situation it is considered that there is a concern of significant harm towards the children, in which a section 47 enquiries have been initiated, in line with the Children Act 1989. In which resulted to this conference to take place today.

Before we start, we would like to acknowledge that the children's mother Shelly was invited to attend this meeting today but has not responded to our team.

Beca will come to you first please

(Beca to read her report)

Headteacher/nursery manager (Beca)

Thank you, Shannon. Hello, my name is Beca and I'm the head teacher at Alora's nursery setting.

The role of a head teacher is to ensure that the environment is high quality and a positive environment for children and practitioners (Department for Education, 2020). Accordingly, the National standard of excellence for headteachers (2015) and Teachers' Standards (2021), all note that relevant standards and requirements must be met by the headteacher.

Following this conference today, as the headteacher, I will represent the school regarding the concerns about Alora's well-being and holistic development at the nursery. According to the Wales Safeguarding Procedure (2019), practitioners have a duty of care to promote children's well-being and any safeguarding concerns.

From reviewing records and raised concerns, the school decided to start a referral. We contacted social services and the health visitor, as we had concerns about Alora's well-being and development. Furthermore, Section 175 of the Education Act (2002) and Section 17 of the Children Act (1989), both state that schools have a duty to ensure the welfare of children in their care and to ensure that safeguarding children is a priority.

'Rosa and Shannon can you both confirm that referral?'

Thank you, Shannon and Rosa.

As a headteacher, I also discussed my concerns with the safeguarding officer regarding Alora's change of behavior and coming into school with dirty clothes. The National Assembly for Wales (2018) stated that action should be taken if there is any concern

about the child and the safeguarding officer and manager should be informed immediately.

According to the Social services and Wellbeing Wales act (2014) and the NSPCC (2023) working together allows multi-agencies to have a full overview of this situation and to cooperate to find the best support for the family and child.

Before Karl came into Shelly's life, Shelly was always cooperative with Alora's education, well-being and development and would always ask for advice on how she could support her daughter further. The Children Act (1989) states that parents/carers should be taking responsibility to be closely involved in a child's learning. Relationships also play a key role in a child's development and well-being, and this should be a focus for parents (Department for Education, 2024).

So, when an unknown man who we can now identify as Karl started picking up Alora from school. This also raised concerns because Shelly did not inform us about Karl picking her up. The NSPCC (2023), states that schools should not allow children to leave the premises without their legal guardian picking them up, if schools are unable to contact the parents/carers schools should not release the child. During this time, Karl started to become aggressive, the class teacher was aware that this highlighted safeguarding concerns.

Alora has also shown signs of aggressive behavior and lack of patience with other children, which has resulted in her withdrawing herself from other children. Following this the NHS Berkshire (2024), highlight that a child showing signs of aggressive behavior may display that they are feeling unsafe and anxious, this may be because a child does not have a secure relationship.

Alora's teacher raised concerns about Alora arriving in school with dirty clothes, unbrushed teeth, clear repetition of clothes worn from the previous days, greasy hair and an unkept appearance overall. Following this, Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs (date) states that for children to reach their full potential as an individual they must have emotional security, freedom from fear and a socially stable home life (Mcleod, 2024). Alora has been showing signs that she is not receiving these needs listed above. The

UNCRC (United Nation Convention of the right of a child, 1989), states that every child has the right clean water, health care and a clean environment to live in.

Alora's teacher also decided to report a concern about Alora getting distressed, Alora quoted that "She doesn't want to go home, she wants to stay at school", this raised a concern to us as a school.

According to The Data protection Act (2018) and section 47 of the Children Act (1989), schools, local authorities and multi-agencies have a duty to act upon safeguarding a child and to report and refer immediately. Data protection regulation (2018), states that information should not be shared with people not involved with the child as the child's safety is important while collecting evidence that might support multi-agency to come to the best decision regarding Alora's life (All-Wales child protection procedures, 2008).

To conclude, I believe a Child protection plan should be put into place for Alora. I believe a Child protection plan would benefit Alora's and Shelly. I believe this will benefit Shelly and led her in the right direction in supporting Alora development and well-being.

Thank you for listening.

Thankyou Beca, we will now hear from the health visitor

(ROSA TO READ HER REPORT)

Health visitor (Rosa)

Thank you. Good morning. My name is Rosa.

According to UNCRC (1989) (The UN convention on the Rights of the Child) Article 24 states that all children have the right to optimal health. As a health visitor, my role has included collaborating with Shelly and both her children, Alora and Hunny, to pinpoint health issues and risks as soon as possible and enhance wellbeing by fostering health, minimizing illness, and lowering disparities (NHS, 2024).

According to The Well- Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, Health and well-being are among the many issues Wales faces, and in order to address them and guarantee a high standard of living for present and future generations, we must

cooperate. In result, due to Alora's frequent unkept appearance and lack of hygiene within the school setting, I have been visiting the family regularly in order to seek insight into Alora and Hunny's health needs and development.

Over time I have noticed that Alora is often wearing dirty clothes, seems as if she is brushing her teeth infrequently and does not shower regularly enough leading to soiled hair and an unpleasant smell. Hunny indicates a lack of expression, sociability, and gross motor abilities, among other developmental delays. Shelly has represented clear signs of abuse; over the multiple visits I have noticed an incline in anxiety and delusion along with signs of being withdrawn. Since Shelly's last referral I have noticed a relapse in alcohol use, the clear progression mum was once making has quite clearly been forgotten due to the influence of Karl.

According to Local Government (2017) it is my responsibility to assist the family in addressing disparities, fostering healthy habits, and developing resilience. In addition, I have provided screening, health and development evaluations, social and emotional growth, and parental assistance.

As stated by The Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014 children should be provided with an appropriate living space and while following the UNCRC (1989) it tells us in Article 18 that a child's upbringing depends on the parents providing and accounting what is greatest for the child. In this case, Shelly is not providing the children with an appropriate living space or what is greatest for Alora and Hunny. When visiting the home, I often notice an unpleasant odor caused by a variety of factors, outdated takeout containers in the living room, used nappies scattered on the floor, a soiled washing pile in the kitchen and empty alcohol bottles.

One of my concerns is that due to the inconsistency shown by Shelly over time, the children may find it difficult to learn from experiences and form relationships while growing up. For example, Watson (2019) conveys that Bowlby believed that a child's early experiences and comfort from a parent or caregiver are what shape essential

connections, feelings of security, and developmental results. In this scenario, Alora and Hunny will struggle to gain a positive attachment to their mother, resulting in negative effects of their forming of relationships, a delay of learning from lack of experiences and confidence in their personality later in life.

However, positives are just as important when working with families in these matters. Firstly, I can confirm that Hunny is up to date with all her 8 vaccines that the NHS (2023) suggests that she should have had at 8, 12 and 16 weeks and upon reaching out to her general practitioner, he verified that her personal child health record, commonly referred to as the "red book," was current and that her development and health were satisfactory (RCPCH, 2024).

Secondly, while trying my best to create a trusting relationship with Shelly, I have discovered that she is becoming slightly more cooperative and willing to put herself and the children's health and well-being before the priorities of alcohol with the support she has been receiving from the alcohol misuse worker. Can you confirm this for me please Elysia?

With regard to gaining a deeper knowledge upon this situation I made the decision to speak to Alora. Although, I did this all while considering Section 17 of The Children Act, meaning I give thought to Alora's age and comprehension as well as her desires and sentiments. Alora was able to establish that she often felt scared when in the home since Karl has been around, she expressed that he was often aggressive and verbally loud which influenced mum and caused herself distress.

In alignment with Section 47 of The Children Act (1989), it was the correct decision to come together today to provide the correct support to protect Alora and Hunny's welfare due to the exposure to harm. Article 19 of the UNCRC (1989) maintains that it is vital that we take every precaution to shield children from abuse, neglect, and exploitation by their parents or other caregivers. From the information that I have gathered during these visits I have learned that in addition to other aspects of neglect, Alora and Hunny have experienced various forms of harm and abuse, such as verbal and emotional (NSPCC, 2024). Would you please verify this for me Shannon?

In conclusion, I believe that a Child Protection Plan should be put into place. Safeguarding Wales (2024) proposes that as victims of abuse and neglect, Alora and Hunny ought to be listed on a registry to notify all professionals who work with them about their vulnerability to harm and verify that a care and support protection plan is in place for the children's safety. In effect, I was in contact with Headteacher Beca to further discover whether these forms of neglect are affecting Alora wider than just her health and development.

Could we now go over to the substance misuse support worker please

(ELYSIA TO READ HER REPORT)

Substance misuse support worker (Elysia)

Hello, my name is Elysia Moss and I am the substance misuse support worker for Shelly and have been for a few years.

I have previously worked with Shelly to help her with her drinking habits. At the time I started working with Shelly she was drinking heavily, but there were no concerns for Alora or Hunny's well-being, both children were well looked after, and all relevant services were involved with the care of the children in line with the Care standards act (2000).

Shelly had previously made good progression, attending all relevant meetings that were put in place including AA meetings and was consciously trying to stop her drinking habits alongside Alcoholics anonymous (2024). Shelly then stopped attending and was prioritizing hers, Alora's and Hunny's health and well-being, while I stayed in contact to observe Shelly and help and offer advice when needed but overall seemed to be making great progression.

I have recently been contacted by Shelly's social worker Shannon and advised to reach out to Shelly again and offer help and support for both Shelly and Karl who I understand is Shelly's new partner in line with the social services and well-being act (2014). Previously when I was working with Shelly there was no partner that I knew of,

since then Shelly has a new partner and has started heavily drinking again and it is clear to me that she has relapsed.

When contacting Shelly, she was very distant and did not want any help, she had been advised that seeking help is what needs to happen for the safety of the children as there are now concerns for both Alora's and Hunny's well-being and safety. Upon seeing Shelly, it was clear to me that Shelly was showing signs of abuse, she was incredibly anxious and was being very withdrawn not wanting to partake conversation about her drinking habits, once I had explained to Shelly why I had been in contact and that I was there to support her she slowly came around and has since been more open to help, as Shannon has stated Shelly was invited to the conference today but has made no contact, I do believe that due to Shelly's drinking she is unable to correctly make decisions and is easily coerced by Karl.

Shelly has been drinking on and off from a young age and it seems at times she excessively binge drinks which in line with National institute on alcohol abuse and alcoholism (2024) shows Shelly has an alcohol problem, most of the time Shelly is drinking around the children leading to concerns for the children's well-being, looking at previous records from the times Shelly has been under my care Shelly uses drinking as a coping mechanism or as an escape, which does not help with her mental health under The mental capacity act (2005).

Shelly seems to go into recovery very well when she is single but then unfortunately when she has a partner the drinking seems to increase, Karl I believe is also a heavy drinker, and in my opinion is not an appropriate adult to be around Alora and Hunny following the guide lines from safeguarding vulnerable groups act (2006).

As it has been stated Alora has been showing signs of neglect in school such as lack of hygiene, unclean clothes these are basic needs that are not being met by Shelly under the United Nations Convention on the rights of the child guidelines (1989) Alora has stated she does not want to go home at the end of the day repeatedly leading to concerns that Alora does not feel safe in her home, I believe by listening to Rosa

Hunny's health visitor that the house is not well kept and is not at this moment suitable for the children to be living in due to the lack of hygiene and safety for the children, is this correct Rosa?

(Rosa replies with yes) Thank you.

As Hunny is only 11 months old, she is under the care of Shelly 24/7 and is being subjected to Shelly's drinking leading to a lack of development I believe that this could also be from a result of Shelly's heavy drinking leaving her unable to responsibly care for Hunny and give her the best start to life Wales safeguarding procedures (2019). As I am aware Karl has turned up at the school to pick Alora up, clearly under the influence of alcohol and has become quite aggressive and as a result the school had to call the police, is this correct Becca?

(Becca replies with yes) Thank you.

Karl has also been offered support for his drinking, with or without the support I do not believe that Karl is a responsible adult to be around Alora or Hunny. And Shelly should not allow Karl to be around as both children have the right to feel safe in line with the article 3 United Nations Convention on the rights of the child, 1989).

I believe when not under the influence of alcohol Shelly is a responsible parent and meets all her children's needs. I do not believe Shelly is intentionally neglecting the children but I do believe the children are being subjected to neglect and there is a concern for significant harm towards the children while Shelly's drinking habits are not under control, with the correct help that Shelly is currently accessing through myself and is also making good progression with, I believe she will be able to gain control of her life again and be the responsible parent to Alora and Hunny.

In the meantime, it is clear that Alora and Hunny are being subjected to neglect and because of this I think it is in the best interest of Shelly, Alora, and Hunny if we put a

child protection plan into place while Shelly is getting all the relevant help, she needs to make a change.

Thank you for listening

We will now hear from the police

(ISABELLE TO READ HER REPORT)

Police officer (Isabelle)

Hi, I'm Isabelle and I'm the police officer in charge of the case regarding Alora, Honey and their mother Shelly.

My role as a police officer with regards to safeguarding children is explained by section 47 of the children act 1989 by having the responsibility of making enquiries to safeguard the children in the area who may be at risk of significant harm or suffering. This includes assessing risks likely to a child and taking immediate action where necessary, interviewing a child who maybe be distressed and unable to recall what has happened and judge how they need to be kept safe going forward.

As a police officer I am duty bound to refer these individuals to the relevant local authorities.

Over the past 2 months we have been called to the property where the children live with shelly 3 times due to noise disturbances and concerns from neighbors about concerns of neglect of the children. According to Section 47 of the children act (1989), social services are required by law to carry out a comprehensive evaluation of a child's circumstances if they receive information or have concerns regarding the child's wellbeing.

Section 47 investigation's goal is to ascertain if the child is experiencing significant harm. Social services have an obligation to take the necessary steps to ensure the children's welfare and protection from harm if they determine that the child is in fact at risk. As a result, we urgently attended the address to carry out an assessment.

Upon arrival at the house Shelly was reluctant to answer the door, however, when she did, she was in the company of a man who we now know is Karl. We explained the noise complaint had been made and they explained they had a small argument but reassured us everything was now resolved. Alora and her sister Honey were both upstairs in their shared bedroom, Alora playing quietly whilst honey was asleep in her cot. I questioned Alora to see how she was feeling, and she stated that “mummy was angry”. The house was clean and tidy, and the girls were well dressed and there was no concern for the welfare of the girls. However, we had advised that shelly should continue to attend her meetings with her alcohol support worker.

We are already aware that a social worker is involved with this family as Alora has been displaying concerning signs which the NSPCC (2016) highlighted as signs of abuse. These signs include anxious and withdrawn behavior, lack of personal hygiene and dirty clothes at school. However, on this occasion there was no further concern for the children.

We were later informed by Elysia that Shelly had been attending regularly which showed clear progress in her behavior and overall behavior of Alora too. She also disclosed that Karl was no longer around, and she had been spending more time with her children. We have stayed in contact with one another to ensure all updates are shared between the police, social worker, alcohol support workers and the school safeguarding officer. Rapid information sharing is important to assess and respond to risks as quickly as possible for an outcome to be made that is in the best interest of the child to ensure they are kept safe (working together to safeguard children 2023). In line with this we all ensured we shared information and regularly updated each other when we had visited or worked with the family. After the visit I contacted the social worker to ensure she was aware we had been called and there was no concern as of yet, but she continued to work closely with the family.

2 weeks later the police were called again to Alora's nursery where they had reported a man acting aggressively after being told he wasn't authorised to collect Alora from

school. Safeguarding policies and procedures published by the NSPCC (2023) states that schools and nurseries should not allow children to leave the premises with an unauthorised person without obtaining permission from a parent. The school made multiple attempts to contact Shelly, but no contact was made. Following the school safeguarding guidelines as backed up by the NSPCC they explained that they could not release her to Karl and from this he became aggressive. As a result, the police were called where to attend.

Beca, can you confirm the details above are correct please?

Upon arrival, I and the social worker Shannon were by an aggressive Karl. When questioned he stated that Alora's mother Shelly was unwell and unable to collect her, so he was sent. With a strong smell of alcohol from Karl we escorted Alora home with Karl and conducted a welfare check.

Gwent safeguarding board (2022) explains that a welfare check is when police are requested to engage with children and adults who may be at risk of harm and assess and manage any safeguarding risks.

Once at the house we could see that Shelly was displaying clear signs of abuse, she was anxious, and the house was inadequate children to live in.

There were dirty nappies left lying around, empty alcohol bottles some of which were broken and dangerous, there were empty food containers and an unpleasant odour. The NSPCC (no date) highlights the negative effects that growing up in inadequate housing standards can have, they state that grow up deprived of nutrition and adequate living standards can hinder physical and cognitive development. also growing up without these necessities is a violation of children's rights with consequences that can last a lifetime.

In the best interest of the children, we contacted the head teacher to involve a health visitor who attends regular visits to both Honey and Alora to ensure healthy development. We advised that Karl was not fit to be around the children and is making

her decline personally which is negatively impacting the care she provides her children.

He was removed from the property and Shelly has been offered all care possible from appropriate services and as a result has been making good progress. She is doing great and continues to work closely with all agencies to provide the best care for children.

As a result, we have worked together to conclude what is the best approach to support the family for the future which is to place the children on a child protection plan.

This is the end of my report for today's conference.

Could we now go over to the family support worker, please

(ANAIS TO READ HER REPORT)

Family support worker (Anais)

Hello, good morning my name is Anais, and I am the family support worker that is working with Alora, Shelly and Hunny.

I was contacted by social services to support Shelly and the children with their situation. As the family support worker I have been regularly visiting Shelly's home to support her with effective tasks that can assist with the upkeep of the family home and the health and wellbeing of herself and the children (Social Services and Well-being Act 2014). According to national careers service (No date) It is my duty to ensure the safety of the family and to guide them with their complex situations to enable them to thrive.

As their family support worker, I have been collaborative working to establish the appropriate organizations that can help Shelly and the children to ensure that I meet their needs and provide them with the best possible outcome, this is supported by (Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023)

It is my aim that the family will gain enough support from organizations to enable Shelly to be independent with a plan in place.

In this conference today I will share insights into what may be happening within the family home and how Shelly has been highly influenced and manipulated. I will also discuss the effects of the behavior and lack of care that children have been exposed to.

When the referral was made there were concerns regarding only Alora, however on arrival at the family home Hunny was displaying clear signs of neglect and additional behaviors. Section 175 of the Education Act (2002) suggests that organizations should ensure the protection of all children in their care, therefore I had to maintain a professional approach to the situation by safeguarding and trying to promote the welfare of both Alora and Hunny.

On my first visit Shelly was very apprehensive about showing me around the family home as it was clear that mum's new partner, Karl, was intimidating her and creating an uncomfortable environment. According to the UNCRC Article 24 Shelly is not meeting the needs of the children as the house was not kept in a clean state as there was rubbish and takeaway boxes left around the kitchen and the living room, dirty nappies were overflowing the bathroom bin, alcohol bottles left on the floor and Shelly's personal hygiene was neglected. Shelly was extremely withdrawn and was showing a clear state of anxiety. The relationship between Karl and Shelly was clearly unstable, due to the tension and anger within the home has led the children to feel anxious and frightened.

Karl was evidently demonstrating that he was not a suitable adult to be around Alora and Hunny, due to how they would become extremely sheltered and withdrawn when Karl would enter the room. Alora appeared physically unclean with dirty fingernails, greasy hair, body odor and unclean teeth. This was also seen with Hunny; however Hunny's nappy was extremely full, and it was clear her nappy had not been changed in a while. The Children Act (1989) states that guardians need to ensure that they are providing the adequate care that children need for them to develop holistically.

During the visits Alora showed aggressive behavior and a lack of patience towards Hunny, mimicking how she witnesses Karl act towards others. Speaking with social services Karls aggressive behavior was also displayed at the end of the day in Alora's school. Can you confirm this Beca and Shannon? (Beca says yes) thank you both

Alora's behavior is making her regress and the influence that Karl has upon her is detrimental to her development and her opportunities to form relationships with others. NHS Berkshire (2024) explains that children showing aggression may be a sign of defense as they may feel unsafe, anxious or a lack of positive relationships within their life.

As a family support worker, it is vital to listen to what the family has to say and take on board what they have said as it may be detrimental to the case. This is evident as Alora disclosed to her teacher that "she doesn't want to go home, and she wants to stay in school". Is this correct Beca? (Beca says yes) Thank you Beca. Due to the Data protection act (2018) and section 47 of the children Act (1989), multi- agencies, authorities and schools must adhere to the practice of safeguarding a child and to ensure they report and refer a child right away.

However, ensuring that I inform the correct authority and not disclosing the information to anyone that is not involved with the case (All Wales child protection procedures 2008)

To conclude, I believe a child protection plan would be suitable for Alora and Hunny to prevent them from further harm or risk. I also think that everyone gathered today should continue with their support for Shelly until we can confirm she is elidable to be dismissed from our services. Furthermore, monthly visits to assess Shelly's progression, and the wellbeing of the children would be beneficial for their circumstance.

Thank you.

Social worker (Shannon)

As previously stated, my name is Shannon and I am the social worker assigned to the family,

My role as the social worker is to support the families through difficult times and to ensure children are safeguarded from harm (Action for me 2019).

My role as a social worker is to meet with families to review their needs and to put support plans in place to build trust and confidence with the individuals to support their overall wellbeing, it is also within my role to help protect vulnerable children from harm or abuse (National careers, no date).

In line with the practice and guidance social care Wales section 4.1 states that as a social worker I must respect the wishes and views in which I promote the rights and interests of individuals under my care, as the social worker it is also important to promote the wellbeing and the voice and control of the individuals that I work with. This coincides with the social services and wellbeing (Wales) act 2014 where part 2 A section 5 of the act requires functions under this act to seek to promote the wellbeing of individuals who need the support.

Section 5 of the social care Wales guidance (2024) describes good social practice as based on a person-centered, systematic and reflective approach as this case in question has children involved. A child-centered approach is vital when putting the children's best interests at the heart of it, which coincides with the United Nations Convention of the rights of the child articles 3 and 12. This also coincides with the Munro report which suggests the importance of a child-centered approach when it comes to safeguarding.

I received a referral from Alora's education setting where they had concerns for her health and wellbeing and overall holistic development. as in line with the education act (2002) section 157, where Alora's educational setting needed to refer to the appropriate agencies including myself to ensure the child's wellbeing and safety to ensure Alora is in fact safe.

Can you confirm that you made this referral please Beca,

(BECA REPLIES WITH YES)

Thank you,

From this referral I needed to ensure that the children were safe from any form of significant harm or abuse in line with section 47 of the Children Act (1989). Under the data protection act (2018) it is vital for all professionals involved with the children to refer any concerns that may have regarding safeguarding concerns concerning the children.

When I first started making visits to the family home it seemed to be clean and well-kept both children were happy and smiling and Alora would be more than happy to sit and communicate with me about school and her friends and what she did with her mother and little sister honey. The children seemed to well-kept and full of life I was aware that the family was still under a health visitor due to honeys age and attended their scheduled visit

Can you confirm that the family were attending these visits please rosa

(ROSA REPLIES WITH YES)

Thankyou,

Shelly did inform me upon my initial visit of a new partner who regularly visits the family home but was not present when I was visiting. During my regular visits to the family home, I could see a deuteration within Shelly's emotional wellbeing and overall wellbeing. shelly also informed me that Alora has been showing signs of aggression towards honey. I came to the decision to refer the family to a family support worker. Anais can you confirm that you received the referral and made regular contact with the family

(ANAIIS CONFIRMS THE REFREAL AND REGULAR VISITS TO FAMILY)

Thank you.

Two weeks ago, I was told I needed to escort Alora home from her setting as her mother Shelly had not turned up but instead an unfamiliar male now known to us as Carl due to there being no known emergency contact provided for Alora I was called to take Alora home upon collecting Alora I became aware that Karl had become aggressive within the school premises where the police were then called.

Can you confirm this Isabelle please

(ISABELLE CONFIRMS THIS)

Thankyou,

Upon arrival at the family address, it was clear that since my last visit things have deirated where it was clear that the children were being neglected in which Shelly was not catering to the children's needs in line with the UNCRC article 27 where children have the right to a sufficient standard of living, by entering the house I could see obvious signs of insufficient Living standards due to the takeaway boxes throughout the house, empty alcohol boxes and dirty nappies. From this observation I suggested to Shelly that a substance misuse support worker would be beneficial for the family in which she previously received this help before.

Can you confirm that regular visits have been happening Elysia

(ELYSIA CONFIRMS THIS)

Thank you.

It is in the children's best interest that I suggest the family have regular visits from

myself and keep up to date with all other visits with the other professionals here today to ensure a multiagency approach is provided in line with the social services and wellbeing (Wales) act (2014).

Conclusion/ outcome of conference. (Shannon)

It is important to take into consideration that shelly has improved with her behavior towards Alora and honey

From hearing all the reports today, and the concerns regarding Alora and Honey, it is in the best interest of both Alora and Honey that a child protection plan is put into place. This will include ensuring shelly keeps up to date with regular rehab sessions for alcohol and cooperates to monthly visits from myself (shannon) where the family will be visited all the professionals here today to ensure shelly is coping and Alora and Honey are being looked after.

We advised shelly prior to this conference today that Karl is not an appropriate adult to be around for herself and the children. Shelly has been receiving all the appropriate support and as a result, she has been making good progress, we have concluded that we are going to use the proposed child protection plan.

Can you all confirm that you are happy with this decision and agree with the proposed protection plan?

Everyone replies with yes

I now ask that we move onto our individual personal reflections please

(Everyone reads out their personal reflections in the order the reports were read).

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