

Part 1 – Group Presentation Script

Section 1

Zoe: Good afternoon the reason for this conference today is to bring all professionals together and we will be looking into all the information that the professionals have provided and to decide if a child protection plan should be put in place for this family. NSPCC (2023) Firstly states that a protection plane for children is a conference where all the people that work or know about the risk of the child's well-being and they come in a group together to decide if the child needs a protection plane or not. Working in a multiagency is key for children safety and protection (NSPCC, 2024). NSPCC (2024) explains that a protection plan is plan for the child that is in harm's way and to protect the children. My name is Zoe, and I am the social worker provided to this conference. Gov (2023) explained that the social worker will be the lead because the social worker will work with the parents and make the decision if the child is safe in their home or not. My role is to protect children or young people from harm or abuse (NHS, 2023). As a social worker it is also in need to improve and help children's wellbeing and their lifestyle (BASW, 2023). Legislation.gov.uk (no date) the 2004 act explant that the government has published a every child matter act that promotes the child's well-being. Also, according to BASW (2023) Social workers are there to protect and to provide support to the parents to allow them to best provide and care for their children. Gov (2014) explanted that the social worker will recognise different risk that children could be in and that can have an impact on their life's. Social workers also will help and explains to the parents the importance of good parenting and how they can be a better parent to the children by supporting them and social worker will also support the parents and children (Gov, 2014). I was called here today because there was a concern for the child's safety and well-being. I have read the notes that was provided, and I can see there has been a concern about the child's poor hygiene. BHCP (2024) indicates that poor hygiene is a sign of that the child could be neglected and not having the care they should be by the family. As a social worker I had to go to the house to see what kind of environment the children live in. Social workers do home visits because they need to see the environment that the children are living in and how the parents have the environment for their children, and they can also see if there is any risks or concerns that are in the house (gov, 2022). On the 28th of December at 10:30 am I went into the house, it was unkept and there where soiled nappies from the baby everywhere that was giving the house an unpleasant smell and all I could also smell alcohol in the air and empty alcohol bottles around. I have also read from the notes that a man that was not known dropped of the child having a strong small of alcohol on him. NHS (2024) explanted that parents or partners of parents who have a drinking problem can cause harm to children because they cannot provide a safe and caring home for their children and are also putting their children in harms' way of alcohol abuse. While reading the notes that have been provided by the professionals here, I can understand their concerns and worry of the wellbeing of the child I would like to ask if the professionals can provide all the information they have seen

Zoe: Firstly, I would like to ask Angel, who first referred her concerns to myself on December 27th, 2023.

Angel: Of course. Hi everyone, my name's Angel. I would like to take a moment to discuss what my role is in today's conference. I am the manager of the nursery that the child being discussed, Tom, attends to. As a nursery manager my role is pivotal to ensure the safeguarding of the children in my care. As stated by Department for Education (2022) it is my responsibility to develop and implement safeguarding policies in accordance with local regulations and guidelines. It is also my responsibility to ensure that my staff members are provided with the training in accordance with National Minimum Standards (Welsh Government, 2016). The training I provide to my staff members, according to NSPCC (2021), equips them with the knowledge and skills necessary to identify signs of abuse and follow established safeguarding procedures. Thankfully I regularly monitor safeguarding policies to stay up to date with any adaptations and evolving changes which as according to Early Years Alliance (2022), is imperative to gauge their effectiveness. This allowed me to successfully communicate, up to date information to my staff, allowing them to become aware when a possible safeguarding concern evolves. Therefore, Lauren, Tom's keyworker, has my full support in her observations and concerns in Tom's well-being.

During Toms time at my nursery, he has been a happy, outgoing, little boy with many friends and previously, I have had no concerns for his welfare. This is until recently. NSPCC (2024) states that signs of neglect can be shown as, poor hygiene, a change in appearance and behaviours and developmental issues. He has become withdrawn, attending nursery in dirty clothes and his behaviour has become alarming. My concerns first rose when receiving registrations from my pre-school. It portrayed to me that Tom was approximately an hour later being dropped off than usual, at 09:05 on the 6th of December 2023. I further discussed my concern with Tom's keyworker, Lauren, and we came to the decision to begin noting our unusual observations. Lauren will later discuss her findings.

As of the number of concerns recorded by Lauren and I, together we decided we were in need to speak to Tom's mother Stacey, so we scheduled a meeting with her for the 11th of December 2023. I focused the meeting on checking in on the family as a whole and to reassure myself that Stacey is managing with her responsibilities. She ensured me of no change in their home life and did not disclose of any information relating to the growing concerns. I observed Stacey's body language and mannerisms throughout which portrayed to me she was nervous.

With the arousing concerns for Tom's safeguarding, I took the opportunity to undergo my own investigations with this child's home situation to explore the concerns which have developed in my setting. At the meeting on 11th December 2023, between myself and Tom's mother Stacey, we arranged to visit Stacey in her home environment where we could talk in a calming environment for her, and she could show me her home, to further reassure my concerns of Tom's well-being. However, that was not the outcome. When I arrived at the house on 13th December 2023, I was promptly met with an unorganised and unkept home. With this observation in mind, I followed Stacy through her home where I immediately noticed a pungent smell of alcohol throughout. I noticed how there was dirty laundry piles throughout with men's clothing included, which took to my attention as I was unaware of a male figure in this family.

As a result of these personal investigations and the information documented by my staff, I went through a systematic reporting process, maintaining my accurate confidential records of the prior investigations to further act (Department for Education, 2022). My commitment to confidentiality aligns with legal and ethical considerations during child protection (Department for Education, 2022). I got in contact with the social services and healthcare professionals on 27th December 2023, as according to NSPCC (2021) it is important to collaborate with external agencies when necessary. Throughout all matters in relation to child protection, as the nursery manager, I complied with all laws and regulations in collaboration with regulatory bodies and participating in the inspection (Department for Education, 2022). (4minutes, 20seconds, so far)

Zoe: Thank you, Angel. Is interesting to hear how this has affected the child within the nursery setting. Now can we hear the details of the observations from Tom's keyworker. Lauren?

Lauren: Hello everyone, I am Lauren, the child's keyworker. My role is to ensure that specific children I work closely with, and their families feel safe and cared for. I often work with children who have complex needs, as NHS England (2021) explains that having a keyworker for these children ensures that all their needs are met, and they are receiving the appropriate support. As Tom's keyworker, Professional Association for Childcare and Early Years (2023) states that part of my role is to observe the way the child is developing and raise any concerns or need for extra support. As our social worker, Zoe, has explained, today we are discussing the possibility of a child protection plan being enforced for this child. My role in safeguarding as the child's keyworker is to ensure I take every step necessary to meet the child's needs, this includes, keeping them safe, forming a positive relationship with them and encouraging healthy habits to assist in their development. As I work so closely with Tom, I need to be aware of any issues of concern surrounding him and implement safeguarding policies. Due to the nature of my job, I can identify any behaviour changes, deterioration in the child's wellbeing and signs of neglect or abuse (Department for Education, 2023). What I have witnessed has led me to grow concerns for the child we are discussing today. During my work with Tom, I had begun to notice a drastic change in his behaviour, appearance and his emotions within the last month. A three-year-old boy who was once a clean, outgoing, young person has now become a withdrawn, unkempt, vulnerable being. On the morning of the 6th of December 2023 at 9:05am, Tom was dropped off later than usual at the early years setting and appeared dirty and tired. We, in the setting did not receive the usual positive welcome from this child that we normally would. I was concerned at the fact that Tom appeared to be wearing dirty clothes as this was completely out of the norm, so I noted this as I could see this was affecting not only his appearance but also his wellbeing. NSPCC Learning (2023) explains that children's wellbeing can be affected by abuse and neglect, family circumstances, environment, stress, and loneliness or social isolation. This dirty appearance continued for the child as on the 7th of December 2023, just the day after I made my first note of concern, at 8:45am the child was brought to us in the setting in the same dirty clothes and expressed to myself that they had not had breakfast and that they were hungry. After

witnessing how unkempt the child had become and the child coming to the setting hungry, I spoke with Angel, the nursery manager who then arranged a meeting with the mother to discuss any possible changes within the family circumstance or environment that could be causing this. During the meeting, the mother did not disclose any information that seemed relevant to these concerns. Even though no concerns were stated by the mother, the child was still attending the setting daily in dirty clothes. As Tom's keyworker I made notes about every incident with times and dates, as this was becoming increasingly more concerning. At 1:47pm on the 8th of December 2023 in the setting, the child was found to have had a wet accident. When the child was asked when this happened, they expressed that it was during the lunchtime play which ends at 1:00pm, meaning this child had been in their own urine for at least 47 minutes. This was unusual activity for this child as they have been found to have excellent hygiene in the past, but this is now showing deterioration. Ramos-Morcillo et al. (2019) states that a child's hygiene is heavily influenced by their family. They express that the causes for bad hygiene within the family could be due to a change in dynamics, a family break up or poverty. During this last month, the child of concern has developed a continuous cough and flu like illness. Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust (no date) tells us that poor hygiene can cause illness, therefore it leads me to believe that the child is not receiving guidance of how to maintain good hygiene and health. The most recent incident that was noted by myself, was on the 22nd of December 2023 at 3:25pm. The last day of term in the setting. Tom was collected by a man unknown to us at the setting however, the man appeared to know the password I ask for when new people come to collect children. This password is made by the parents or guardians of the child and is only shared with people who collect the child who may be unknown to the staff. This indicated that this was who Tom was supposed to be going home with, therefore he was released from the setting to go home with this gentleman. I noted this as a concern as there was evidence of a strong smell of alcohol coming from this man and the Tom seemed withdrawn when placed in his care. This rang alarm bells for myself as I am aware that there is also a baby girl in the household that may be experiencing similar issues to what I have witnessed with the child in my setting. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (no date) explain that according to article 19, 'Prevention from violence abuse and neglect' "Governments must do all they can to ensure that children are protected from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect and bad treatment by their parents or anyone else who looks after them." My role as the child's keyworker is to raise all concerns to the nursery manager, as to me this child is experiencing some form of neglect.

Zoe: Thank you, Lauren, that has given us the information that we needed. Next, we have the police child protection officer, Shanell who has been closely involved with the family in this case.

Shanell: Hi, I am Shanell, the Child protection Police Officer. My role as a child's protection officer is to safeguard children from harm and abuse while promoting their general well-being (GOV, no date). It is my duty as a child protection police officer to protect and improve the welfare and security of children in need. Tower Hamlets (no date) implies that children's services seek to do this by collaborating with families

and parents in the children's best interests and considering their opinions when reaching decisions. We are required by law to look into the circumstances of any young person or child that seems to be in danger. We speak with the young person, their family, and every agency that is directly engaged. According to Islands safeguarding children partnership (no date) The police's primary responsibilities are to protect the public, enforce the law, and stop crime and disturbance. Like every other citizen, children have the right to the whole protection provided by the criminal code. As UNICEF (2019) states in article 19 defence against abuse, neglect, and violence, governments have a duty to take all reasonable steps to safeguard children from mistreatment by their parents or other carers, including abuse, neglect, and violence.

A referral was made to us after police officers were called to this child's house around seven o'clock in the evening on December the 22nd after worried neighbours reported hearing a lot of shouting and arguing. Upon arrival, it was evident that the property had two young children and two adults. One of the adults was the mother of the two children, while the other was a man who clearly had been drinking alcohol. According to the two police officers who wrote the report, the man at the home address claimed to be a boyfriend of the children's mother. The individual appeared irritated and hostile as a result of the police officer's presence. The two officers noted that the house smelled strongly of alcohol and appeared unkept. It was also observed that there seemed to be a significant amount of alcohol cans and bottles in the living room and kitchen. NSPCC (no date) suggests that at various points in their life, children can experience adverse consequences due to substance abuse. Substance abuse could place children at risk of physical and mental abuse or neglect later in life (NSPCC, no date). On the other hand, the mother did appear agitated and uneasy about the man's presence. Despite the fact that the mother and the male stated the complaint was nothing more than a little dispute, the two police officers were concerned about the two small children who appeared to be upset and agitated. The oldest child, whose age the mother had given as three, looked withdrawn and was dressed in unclean clothes. Along with the oldest child, the youngest child, who was less than a year old, also appeared to be quite unhappy and was dressed in unclean clothes. The fact that both of the children were unclean and in distress was cause for concern for the two officers because these behaviours are indicators of neglect. According to NSPCC (2023), the most prevalent type of child abuse is neglect, which is the continuous failure to provide for a child's basic needs. A child may be left hungry or unclean, or without sufficient clothing, housing, supervision, or health care. Children and teenagers may be at danger because of this. It can also have long-term consequences for their health and emotional well-being.

Therefore, the referral was made to us because of the concern of neglect and the children's well-being. Upon reading the report it was evidenced that both children's emotional and physical well-being was not being made a priority. As UNICEF (2019) states in article 3 the child's best interests, when making decisions or taking actions that have an impact on children, the child's best interests must always come first. Due to this concern, contact was made to both the nursery manager that the eldest child attended, and the children's mother. Following a visit to the children's home, I

spoke with the mother of the children and noticed that she was nervous about the male's presence. However, in response to a question concerning the wellbeing of the children, the mother claimed that although she had been going through some depression, she was managing to take care of them. I was concerned as it was evident that the children's needs were not being addressed since they both appeared unhappy and because it was noticeable that their clothes had not been cleaned given that they were both wearing dirty clothes. I was also concerned about the male's presence in the house because there was a strong odour of alcohol, and it was clear that the mother was frightened and nervous about the male's presence. I worry that the mother's capacity to provide for the needs of her children is being impacted by the male's presence in the house and is generating stress on both the children and the mother. CPD online college (no date) maintains that in accordance with the Children Act of 1989 and the Care Act of 2014, the police service is tasked with conducting investigations to protect and secure the welfare of any child or vulnerable adult in their community who is experiencing or is likely to experience significant harm. They will do this in collaboration with other agencies, such as local authority adults, children's social care services, health services, and education services.

Zoe: Ok so there is an overall concern for the family's well-being and the impact their situation has on all children in this household. Thank you, Shanell, for the wider view of information on this case. To my knowledge, Hannah, you have been working with this family for a while as their health visitor, correct? Could you enlighten the case of how the family has been prior to this investigation and portray their deterioration.

Hannah: Good afternoon, my name is Hannah James. I am the family's health visitor. My job as a health visitor is to promote healthy lifestyles in children up to the age of five by providing a wealth of knowledge to families (Somerset Council, 2023). It is my responsibility to ensure that every child has the best possible start in life (NHS, no date).

According to NHS (no date) it is the role of the health visitor to instantly determine whether a child is in danger and a crucial component of my job involves collaborating with other health and social professionals to protect and safeguard children, determine those at risk, to encourage safeguarding policies and to ensure the child's voice is respected.

On the 5th April 2023 at 10 a.m., I visited Stacey at her home for the first time. Rosie, her baby, was two weeks old at the time. During my visit, Tom was clean and well dressed, and was happy playing with his toys. Tom was a healthy weight and was reaching developmental milestones. I discussed vaccinations, safe sleeping, and bottle feeds with Stacey regarding Rosie.

During my second visit to Stacey's home on the 23rd May 2023 at 11 a.m., Rosie was 8-weeks old at the time and was healthy and growing to her percentile. She was

being bottle fed and was up to date with her vaccinations. Tom was in school at the time of this visit. I did not have any concerns regarding Rosie.

However, Stacey mentioned that she was feeling quite low and depressed. She also said that she felt quite isolated and lonely being a single parent. Consequently, I thought that Stacey was postnatally depressed. Therefore, I advised her to see her GP for an assessment, psychological support, and potential medication. Stacey was keen to take my advice and made an appointment with her GP.

On 23rd December 2023 at 2 p.m., my third visit to the home, I had a totally different impression compared to my previous visits. Upon arrival, I instantly noticed there were empty alcohol bottles on the front lawn of the property. A man unknown to me, answered the door and invited me in. He introduced himself as Stacey's boyfriend. The man looked very unkept.

His pupils looked dilated, his hands were shaking, and he was slurring his words. According to NHS (2022) these are common signs of alcohol and drug misuse. There was a pungent smell of smoke and alcohol when entering the house. NHS (2022) states that children are particularly vulnerable to the dangerous effects of passive smoking because of their developing immune systems, lungs, and airways. Furthermore, children who live in a home where at least one member smokes have a higher risk of developing chest infections, asthma, and meningitis.

When I entered the living room, I noticed dirty clothes scattered across the floor, along with dirty nappies. I also identified cigarette stumps on the windowsill very near the curtains. Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service (2024) states that cigarettes can immediately start a fire if they touch fabric and flammable materials. On further inspection, in the kitchen I noticed that the kitchen counter where the baby's bottles were being prepared was filthy. Welsh Government (2024) states that an unhygienic and dirty environment is a form of maltreatment and neglect. There was no food in the fridge or in the cupboards.

NSPCC (2024) states that the persistent inability to provide and meet a child's basic needs such as a child being left hungry, is neglect and child abuse. Moreover, according to UNICEF (2019) Article 27, children should be allowed to live in a way that enables them to attain their full potential. Children should have access to sufficient food and accommodation for this to occur. NSPCC (2023) states that parents that have a substance problem may find it difficult to provide for their children's needs. As a result, their children could be in danger and at risk of harm.

Regarding Tom, it was evident to see that he was very anxious and withdrawn by observing his body language. Tom was upset, he was fidgeting and was clinging to his mother. I observed a significant change in behaviour and appearance from Tom in comparison to previous visits when the man was not present. This was concerning as NSPCC (2024) suggests that an obvious change in behaviour and personality, and a child appearing anxious is a sign of child abuse.

I also noticed that Toms' clothing was dirty and had holes. Tom was looking very pale and undernourished. On closer examination, Tom had abrasive bruises on his head and buttocks, cuts on his hands and it was clear to see that his hygiene had significantly deteriorated. He had an unpleasant odour, bad breath, and matted hair. According to Welsh Government (2024), inadequate clothing and poor personal hygiene indicates neglect. Furthermore, NSPCC (2024) suggests that bruises are the most frequent injury sustained by a child who has experienced physical abuse. UNICEF (2019) article 19 states that Governments must do every effort to safeguard children against, abuse, neglect and violence from parents or carers.

Similarly, Rosie, now 9 months old, was also wearing a dirty outfit, she was under weight and had bruises on her left arm. According to Welsh Government (2024) when a child is not given enough calories or nutrients to support healthy growth is nutritional neglect and can result in malnutrition. She also had severe nappy rash from being in a soiled nappy for hours which was clearly causing her a lot of pain. This was a cause of concern as according to NSPCC (2024), when a child's nappy is not changed regularly, it is a sign of neglect.

Welsh Government (2024) states that it is the responsibility of any individual who has witnessed, or believes, or has concerns that a child is suffering, has suffered, or is likely to suffer harm, to make sure that the concerns are reported immediately to social services or the police, who are obligated by law to investigate and take appropriate action. Therefore, I reported my concerns to the police and made an immediate referral to the local children's social care team. I believe that Tom and Rosie are in danger at home. Therefore, I would strongly suggest they go on a child protection plan under the category of abuse and neglect.

Zoe: Thank you, Hannah. Hearing all the information that has been provided of the safety of the children we have decided a protection plan should be put in place for the children. NSPCC (2024) explains that a child protection plan is a plan that social services do to protect the children and will investigate how they can support the family and what action needs to be taken.

Section 2

Lauren: My understanding of safeguarding before completing this assignment was quite average. I know the policies that the setting I work in has in place for safeguarding and what to do if I think a child is showing any signs of being at risk of harm. However, after this module I have come to realise how important it is that practitioners are educated on this subject, and I feel as if I am now able to identify any safeguarding issues with conviction because of the research I have undertaken throughout this module. I believe I carried out my role as the child's keyworker well in this presentation as I was able to identify what a keyworkers job entails, how they assist in safeguarding children and after reading various resources, websites and journal articles I was confident in contributing to the presentation whilst providing relevant information on safeguarding a child experiencing neglect. I was also able to

link my work to the UNCRC when discussing children's rights. I believe I linked my findings to the scenario well throughout and confidently delivered my piece of work to the group. If I was to undertake this piece of work again, I think I could create a more varied reference list to include deeper information on how children's wellbeing is affected due to neglect and critique the evidence. I would also make more time to work as a team and practice as a group to ensure everyone in our presentation was happy and confident. I will be taking my new knowledge of safeguarding to my practice in hope of improving my work and developing on my role as an Early Years Practitioner.

Angel: Before completing this crucial module, I had a very vague knowledge of safeguarding and the procedures and policies included. I was aware of the steps that I personally must take when my concerns arise in my workplace. Partaking in this module I believe I performed my role as an early year's manager well. I successfully researched the stages a manager must progress through when a situation arises such as the scenario we were provided. I followed said scenario precisely as well as reading through the lines and adding what could possibly have been developing as well. However, I have now gained more of an understanding of how to identify signs and signals of abuse or when a child is at risk of harm. As well as this, I now have a broader understanding of what each role different staff members in an early year's settings have when a safeguarding concern arises and how to support the children who are at risk of abuse. When told we were going to complete this task as a group, I was at first anxious as previously I have not worked well in teams. However, I faced the task strong and gathered our group promptly, created a group chat including all members and created a shared document which allowed our group to begin the task immediately. If given the opportunity to complete this task again, I would research into a larger variety of sources to further broaden my knowledge of safeguarding and support my acts in this scenario. Furthermore, I would also like to include sources which in differ and would desire critique. However, I was unsure how to include this into this task having to act a scenario and felt it would be inappropriate to state things non-factual. I also think if we spent longer as a group rehearsing, we could have perfected the performance and improved the fluidity. The knowledge and understanding I have developed of safeguarding including the practise, legislation and the multi-disciplinary agencies, through this module are going to improve my work in practise in the early years.

Zoe: When I started the safeguarding course, I had some knowledge of how to safeguard in a nursery setting and how the steps go but not as a social worker. In this module i learnt a higher understanding of safeguarding by a social worker and the important steps that must be done to ensure that children safety and how social worker work close with the families to support the child's well-being. After doing the research for this module I have gained a better understanding of what social workers do and the amount of work, they must do to ensure the children are safe. I also have gained the understanding of how the social workers get involved and the stages from the nursery to the social workers. When first learning it was a group project I was

nerves because I am not a confident person when it comes to having to present things and I was afraid to let the group down do to nerves but I taken on the role of the social worker to gain the confidence, I needed to be able to do presentations. When working in a team I made sure to communicate with the rest of the team and tried to get more involved with the group. I wished I investigated more stores like Victoria Columbia to have a better understand of why the legislation's where change and what is the different between the legislation's how it helped the children's safety. I would also like to practice more because I tend to trip over my words, and I would have more confidence when speaking in a presentation. I did also have a challenging time getting into the module because I do not do well with making up things and do better having facts and I would like to work on that.

Shanell: Upon reflection, I have learned a great deal throughout this very significant module. Prior to finishing this safeguarding module, I had little knowledge of early childhood safeguarding. However, I now know substantially more about the critical significance of safeguarding and the critical necessity of ensuring the safety of all children as a result of learning about and comprehending the significance of safeguarding. From my participation in this module, I feel that I have learned a great deal about the importance of Child Protection Police Officers and their role in keeping children safe throughout their childhood and ensuring that the child's best interests are always primary. Prior to doing my own research, I was unaware of the duties performed by child protection police officers. I did, however, learn a great deal about the responsibilities of a child protection police officer from my research. Furthermore, I recognise the significance of having a thorough understanding of safeguarding for all practitioners in order to recognise any indications of abuse as soon as feasible. I believe I had a good understanding of my responsibilities as a child protection police officer since I had done my research on the procedures that police officers must abide by and how their job is to safeguard and enhance the welfare and security of children who are in need. If I were given the opportunity to complete this task again, I would conduct more in-depth research from a number of sources to broaden my knowledge about safeguarding, and I would also practise with the group more to ensure we were all confident and comfortable. Furthermore, as part of a team, I ensured effective communication with the rest of the group regarding our respective roles in the presentation. Additionally, I plan to use my understanding of early childhood safeguarding to enhance my professional practice and progress as an early year's practitioner.

Hannah: This module has provided me a wealth of knowledge and equipped me with the necessary skills regarding safeguarding. It has taught me how important this aspect of child protection is. I now feel confident to undertake safeguarding enquiries and know who to report my concerns to and how to effectively record my concerns to safeguard a child.

I now have a better knowledge and comprehension of how important legislation is and how it affects my role within early years with the help of the information given throughout this module in lectures and through independent research. I have also learnt how to recognise signs of abuse by researching and reading about child abuse crimes. This has also instigated me to research what must be done legally in Wales.

I have learnt that a health visitor should adhere to the strict guidelines to ensure every necessary precaution and action is taken. On reflection, I have also concluded that many things in a household is not always what they seem.

I have learnt that a health visitor must look very deeply in every aspect and look for signs beyond the surface impression. For example, in this scenario, the boyfriend could be drug and alcohol free on the day of the visit. However, he could have taken alcohol or drugs after the visit. This could then put a child in danger without my knowledge. Moreover, I now realise that many visits are imperative to have a complete picture of what goes on in a household to safeguard a child. My most important reflection is, that a health visitor must be very astute, observant and an error of judgement could easily lead to fatal consequences. All that I have learnt through this experience, I plan to use for my professional development as an early year's practitioner in the future.

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