



Assessment Component 1

Case study - Supporting Paper

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Module code: (BMHP5004_LON)

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Introduction

This supporting paper explains the general definition of vulnerable children and young people. It introduces a case study of the Troubled family: Wandsworth, facing adversities. The family presents vulnerability factors, and the main element of vulnerability is parental mental health. The paper discusses the impact of this factor on the child's wellbeing. It also includes the intervention process of the relevant health and welfare authorities.

Finally, the work provides current assessed policy and the roles of multi-professional services within this case study and the results of their activity on the child and family.

Case study Trouble family – Wandsworth

The case concerns a troubled family which lived in Wandsworth (London) and consisted of a single mother and one child.

This family faced adversity because the mother had mental health problems. She experienced domestic violence for a long time. It harmed her mental health. She did not perform daily care of her son. The boy did not attend school regularly. Mom constantly skipped medical and dental examinations for her son and was not made in the time for vaccinations. She did not work anywhere and did nothing. Social services have identified signs of abandonment. One time, a boy was left at home alone for 6 hours due to domestic violence (gov.uk, 2014).

Family facing adversity – The risk factors of vulnerability

This paper evaluates a case of a family facing adversity. Families facing hardships comprise families with specific problems, such as substances misuse, domestic violence, and involvement with the criminal justice system (Gregory L. Stuart, 2009). These factors make the child vulnerable.

The literal meaning of the term “vulnerability” is the state or condition of being weak or poorly defended (Shilpa Khanna Arora, 2015).

A more detailed explanation of vulnerability has been given by Skinner. He defined vulnerable children as “the ones not having certain of their basic rights fulfilled” (Skinner, 2006). Consequently, it has three main aspects of dependency:

Material - funds, nutriment, clothing, home, wellness program and education.

Emotional - safekeeping, love, encouragement.

Social - absence of caring friends, models to follow and risks in the immediate environment.

In this case study, the mother was subjected to domestic violence for a long time. It affected her mental health, and she failed to be a good mother. The family worker put the boy with his grandparents while social services assessed the family's situation.

The main fact of vulnerability in this case is mom's mental health.

The annual statistics in England shows that 1 in 100 parents has an emotional distress. It is more common in women than men (gov.uk, 2021).

The term 'parental mental health problems' to mean that a parent has a mental health problem and she/he needs help to care their children (nspcc, 2021).

The impact of vulnerability factors on the children's health and wellbeing

According to the NSPCC, parental substance misuses can lead to other risks for the child/children, such as neglect.

Neglect is the continuing inability to meet a child's basic needs and is the most common form of child abuse (NSPCC, n.d.). A child or young person left without food, or unwashed and with dirty clothes, without anyone looking at him, without medical assistance, can endanger.

There are four different types of neglect:

- Physical neglect.(Case study: mom does not provide basic care)
- Educational neglect.(Case study: not attending school regularly)
- Emotional neglect.
- Medical neglect.(Case study: missing health and dental appointments, vaccinations not done at the scheduled time) (Bradley, 2017).

The procedure of intervention by relevant health and social care organizations

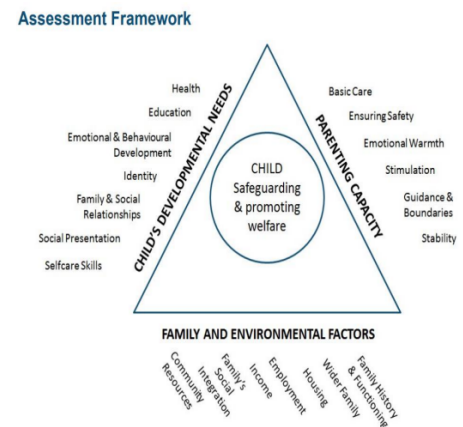
The intervention of the social services starts with the warning by police, doctor, teacher, neighbours, and anyone who work with children. One working day after referral, a Local Authority social worker decides on the next steps.

The referral actions are based on **Assessment framework** (Children, 2018)

The Assessment Framework include into the Policy Working Together to Safeguard children A Guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

That consider a social service to assess a child in Need (Workingtogetheronline.co.uk, 2018). It means that the children were not **removed**. First, the family should be together. Any action should be informed by three elements:

- Parenting capacity
- Family and Environmental factors
- Child environmental needs



The legislation related to the case study and the work of the agencies involved

In this case, based on the assessment framework, the practitioner starts the plan to support the child and family. According to the **Children Act 1989**, the local authority put the child under the section **Children in Need** and the family was kept together. The child must stay with the mom (Children Act, 1989).

“Child in Need” means that **“is a child who needs additional support from the local authority to meet their potential.”** (scie, 2012)

In this case, intervene the social services are necessary. According to the **Act 2004**, they have to work in multi-agency, in order to provide realistic support. Working together with different professionals. For example, in the case study: the mom has a mental problem because she was under domestic abuse.

The family worker sends her to the NHS to provide support and she is now on anti-depressives.

The family worker collaborates with the Council (housing) to organise an accommodation transfer for the mother to take her away from an unsafe place (authorities, 2022).

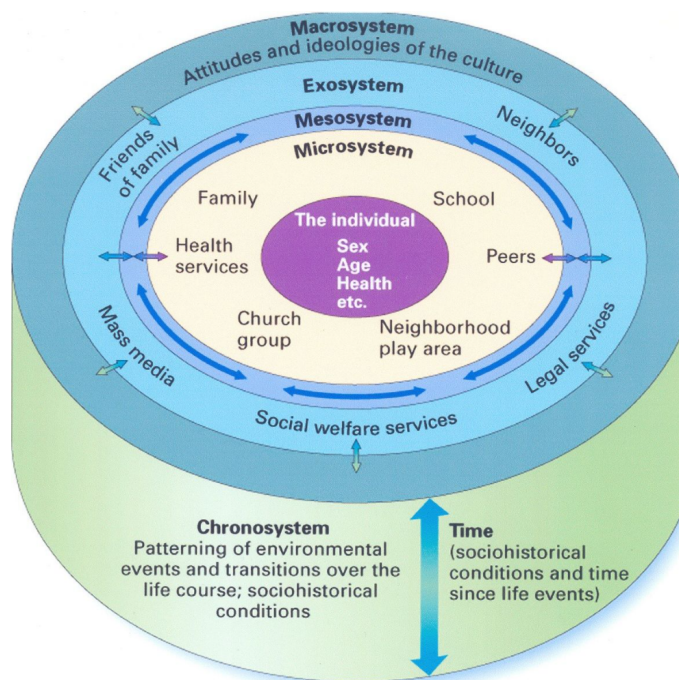
The social worker referred the mom to an employment centre to help her find a job (parents, 2022). This is coming from the Law Children Act 2004 working together in multi-agency.

Equality Act 2010 was applied in the case study as a family compost with single mom and son. The social services worked and providing care to the family without discrimination (Equality Act, 2010). All children should receive same care and protection.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the services provided support to children and families facing adversity must be of high quality and improved. The children should receive real protection and support.

This can be linked to Bronfenbrenner's theory of ecological systems. According to Bronfenbrenner, social environment, and family effect on the development of human beings. The concept of social environment includes health care, social services, and welfare systems (Bronfenbrenner, 2005).



Ecosystems can be beneficial (for example, case study: include mom on mental health support program that benefits the whole family, especially for her child: the house now is clean and tidy, the mental state of the mother is balanced, she volunteers and is looking for a job, the son goes to school regularly).

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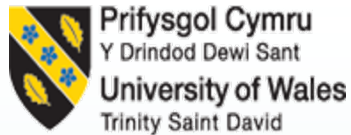
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Appendix: Power Point Presentation for debate WEEK 9



Assessment Component 1 Presentation

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Student ID: 1909127

Modul name: Children, Young People and Families

Modul code: (BMHP5004 –LON)

Lecturer name: Bianca Sanfilippo

Date: 11/04/2022

Introduction

- Definition of vulnerability and family facing adversity
- Presenting a case study of Troubled family: Wandsworth
- The main risk factors of vulnerability and its impact on the child health and wellbeing
- The Assessment Framework
- Current policy and legislation

Vulnerability and family facing adversity

Family facing adversities comprise family with specific problems: substances misuse, domestic violence, involvement with criminal justice system

- These factors make the child vulnerable.

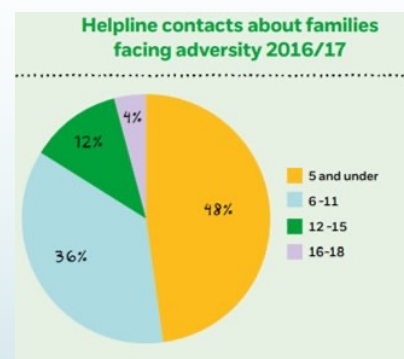
The literal meaning of the term “**vulnerability**” is the state or condition of being weak or poorly defended (Shilpa Khanna Arora, 2015).

According to Skinner, “the ones not having certain of their basic rights fulfilled” (Skinner, 2006). The fundamental aspects of dependency are:

- ✓ **Material** - funds, nutriment, clothing, home, wellness program and education.
- ✓ **Emotional** - safekeeping, love, encouragement.
- ✓ **Social** - absence of supportive friends, role models to follow and risks in the immediate environment.

The case study - Troubled family: Wandsworth

- Single mother and son.
- Mother had mental health problems
- Mum was unemployed
- Social Services was identified signs of neglect (a boy was left at home alone for 6 hours)
- Son was not attending school regularly
- Mother constantly skipped medical and dental examinations for her son (gov.uk, 2014)



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- According to the NSPCC, parental substance misuses can lead to other risks for the child/children, such as neglect (NSPCC, 2019)
- Neglect is **the continuing inability to meet a child's basic needs and the most common form of child abuse** (NSPCC, n.d.)
- Types of neglect:
 - Physical
 - Educational
 - Emotional
 - Medical



Assessment Framework

- The Assessment Framework include into the Policy Working Together to Sefeguard children A Guide to inter-agency working to sefeguard and promote the welfare of children (2018),
- Elements of action are:
 - **Parenting capacity**
 - **Family and environmental factors**
 - **Child's environmental needs**

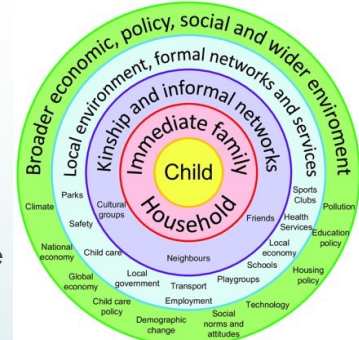


The policy and legislation

- **Children Act 1989 (Child in Need)** – the family kept together; case study: son should be stay with mom.
- **Act 2004** - Work with multy agency; case study: NHS, Council, school.
- **Working Together to Sefeguard Children 2018** – the support based on assessment framework; case study: parenting capacity is lacking – no basic care.
- **Equality Act 2010** - All children should recieve same care and protection; case study: the social services provide care to the family without discrimination (single parent).
- **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)**- provide support to children in need. Ex. Free education, health services.

Conclusion

- According to Bronfenbrenner, social environment, and family effect on the development of human beings (Bronfenbrenner, 2005)
- Ecosystems can be beneficial (for example case study: include mom on mental health support program that benefits the whole family: the home is clean and well-presented and mum's mental health has stabilised, son attending school.



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