

My name is Samantha Morgan, and I am the family's health visitor. I have been their health visitor for 3 years now and visit regular. I am here today to also share my concerns relating to Leo aged 3 and his younger sister Jess aged 1 who I have been monitoring as part of my ongoing health visiting responsibilities. Leo is a happy boy, who always welcomes me on my visits and is very talkative however as the setting leader has discussed there has been concerns around the care and wellbeing of Leo. During a recent home visit, Leo seemed distant and withdrawn. I observed several indicators of potential neglect including the house being unclean and unhygienic, Leo being in dirty clothing, Jess being left in a dirty nappy for a concerning duration and the lack of appropriate nourishing food in the house. This presents significant safeguarding risks especially in a household with young vulnerable children who are limited in their ability to seek help. My observations are consistent with neglect in line with Wales Safeguarding procedures (2019) and the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 which states failure to provide children with the appropriate care including basic, physical, emotional and educational needs is likely to impact a child's health and development.

Another cause for concern is the unknown male that has recently been present on home visits, as confirmed by the setting leader a smell of alcohol on the male is raising alarm bells. I have not witnessed any alcohol at the home on my visits but have been aware of the strong smell of alcohol on him. When questioning mam regarding this unfamiliar male mam has been hesitant to give any information or details to provide clarity regarding his presence and their relationship. This is strange behaviour for mam as before she was happy to chat. The NSPCC (2023) states alcohol misuse can seriously impact a child's emotional and physical wellbeing. Children are at risk of physical harm, trauma from experiencing traumatic situations and being in hostile environments. I have been keeping notes from my recent visits with mam being withdrawn and unlike her usual self in line with Article 19 of the UNCRC that states children have the right to be protected from all forms of harm, that being physical harm, mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect, maltreatment or exploitation. I have also spoken with mam's GP regarding a decline in her mental health, the GP agrees there has been a significant decline in her mental state and is offering her support with this via support groups.

According to the UNCRC, children have the right to the best health and education along with the right to a standard of living that is adequate for their physical, emotional and mental development, I believe these rights currently are not being upheld for both young children at home with the uncleanliness, the lack of appropriate food and the children lacking in hygiene. Along with this the unknown male could be a cause for concern especially with the suspected alcohol misuse. These concerns are echoed by all professionals here today all reporting similar concerns. It is crucial we take the next steps to support the family and reduce the risk of harm for the children. HM Government (2023) states early help is more effective to the child and their family; early help can also reduce the risk of further problems arising. However, on recent visits the mother has shown minimal

engagement with most professional's and health services and denies any help offers. This is cause for concern as it is a significant barrier to safeguarding the children's well-being and is out of character. It is my duty to report all of this in line with Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 that states professionals have a duty to report when a child is at risk of abuse, neglect or any kind of harm and parents/carers non-engagement is a risk factor especially when there are other concerns too.

From my findings and the reports of the other professionals it is evident to see these children are living in circumstances that currently fail to meet the standards they have the right to. Resulting in a failure to meet their most basic rights and developmental needs. My recommendations for considerations going forward to support the family would be to put a care and support plan together and meet again in a few weeks' time to see if any improvements have been made.

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