

ICPC Script:

I'm Caitlin, and I am the family's health visitor. My role is to advise Mam on safe baby feeding, proper hygiene and safe sleep. I also support Mam's mental health and wellbeing (Hywel Dda University Health Board, no date). It is part of my role when it comes to safeguarding, to recognise, record and respond to concerns. I also have a duty to safeguard all children in the home.

I have visited the family home on several occasions due to me being Daniel's health visitor too. During Daniel's first visits, the house appeared very neat and organised and Mam's mental health and wellbeing seemed okay. However, after the birth of Emily, Mam's mental health and wellbeing was not as good as it previously was. I believe she may be suffering from Postnatal depression, which is a common type of depression that many parents experience after having a baby (NHS, no date). I have previously given Mam some advice and mentioned support groups that support women with postnatal depression and encouraged her to attend. I have also advised Mam to see the GP for an assessment, and possibly for other psychological support too.

I also noted that after the arrival of Emily, the house was not as neat and organised as it once was. There was an increasing amount of alcoholic bottles, cans and crates both outside the home and scattered around inside the home too. I also noticed piles of clothes around the house and toys everywhere. As well as this, I did also notice during winter visits, that the house was very cold and there was in fact no heating, which is a possible sign of neglect (NSPCC, no date). Article 19 of the UNCRC states that children should not be harmed and should be looked after and kept safe (UNCRC, 1989).

Emily initially presented well in regards to development. She is bottle fed and is up to date with all her vaccinations, having had the third dose of the 6 in 1 vaccine and the Pneumococcal vaccine when she was 16 weeks old (NHS, no date). However, development has slowed within the last couple of months, with Emily not reaching certain developmental milestones. During the most recent visit, which was Emily's 6 month check up, Emily appeared quite withdrawn, and did not make a sound the entire time I was at the house, although she was awake. This has prompted some concern to me, as by 6 months, babies should be babbling and laughing, whilst also blowing raspberries (CDC, 2022). I was also at the home 6 months ago visiting Daniel. Daniel's development has been normal, with no delays or concerns until recently, which has also raised concerns, as he started school a week after my visit. During this time, I was also aware of Mam having a new boyfriend.

Whenever I visited the house, he was never there. I had noticed a change in Mam after Emily's 3 month visit and also after Daniel's 27 month visit. At one time, Mam had opened up about having relationship problems, which included a lot of verbal

dissagreements. During these visits, Mam revealed her new boyfriend does enjoy drinking and she often has a drink with him.

I made a note and then passed my concerns over to my safeguarding lead, as welfare of the children in this household is paramount and part of the Working together to Safeguard children Act 2023 (Welsh Government, no date). Due to this relationship, I personally believe this family should be put on a child protection plan, and get some support for Mam too.

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