

Appendix 4 – Case Studies: Health

Case study : Maria - health

Maria is 14 years old and she has gone to her GP because she is frightened that she might be pregnant. Her boyfriend, Mark, refused to come with her to the surgery because he's scared that they might get into trouble – Mark is 15 years old. The reception has asked Maria why she wants to see the doctor without her parents being there. Maria refuses to say and gets quite upset, saying she must see the doctor on her own. The receptionist tells her that it is the surgery's policy not to see young people under the age of 16 alone. Maria insists and says she won't leave until she can see a doctor. The receptionist goes to the doctor and asks her what to do.

Case study : Alicia - health, social work

Alicia has two children, aged 2 months and 16 months. She has had substance misuse issues in the past, for which she received treatment before she conceived her eldest child. Her health visitor, Carol, has just visited Alicia at home and has some concerns about the way she is handling her youngest child. She is also a bit concerned that the older child is looking a bit thin and pale. Carol wonders if Alicia is back on heroin but is not sure – Carol is now worried about what she should do.

Case study : Jay – Health, any sector

Jay is 9 years old and he has cancer. His mother, Daya, doesn't want him to know that he has cancer because she doesn't think he would be able to handle it at all and she just couldn't cope with his distress. Jay's paediatrician wants Daya to tell him, but she insists she just can't – and tells the paediatrician that he must not tell Jay that he has cancer.

Case study : Hannah– Health, Social Work

Hannah is 10 and lives with her parents and younger sister. She has epilepsy that is not well controlled by medication and has seizures during the day and at night. Her parents have to provide her with a lot of care when she is home and get very tired. They are also concerned that they do not spend enough time with her younger sister. Hannah therefore stays with a link family one weekend a month. She knows that her parents need a break and although Hannah likes the link family, she would prefer not to go.

Case study : Victoria- Health, Education, Social Work

Victoria aged 12 provides care for her mother who has complex health needs following a brain tumour. When her father works away from home Victoria has to prepare and administer injections to her mother she also prepares the special food which needs to be given to her mother through a tube directly into her stomach. She has received no formal training to enable her to carry out these procedures – she just follows the instructions that her mother gives her. She also takes on a lot of caring roles such as helping her mother go to the toilet, cleaning and shopping. She worries about her mother and sometimes finds it hard to concentrate in school. She likes to keep a mobile phone on her in case her mother needs to contact her if she is unwell. **See audio visual clip of Victoria's Story**

Case study : Kyle – Social Work, Health, Lawyers

Kyle is 23 months old. He was taken into local authority care when he was 2 months old and has been living with a foster family since that time. His mother is addicted to heroin and has been told that she is not able to prioritise his needs. She has tried to come off drugs several times but has not maintained a drug free life. She has been allowed limited supervised contact with Kyle while he has been in care as she has been contesting the care order and Social Services have been looking into other options. Contact has stopped as an adoption order has been made. Kyle is in the process of getting to know his intended adoptive parents and will shortly be permanently living with them. The foster mother contacts the office upset that the adoptive mother has been calling Kyle by a completely different name while she takes him out on visits and has made it clear that she will not be calling him Kyle once he is living in their home.

Case Study : Tahir – Social Work, Police, Education

Tahir is 15 years old and he is from Afghanistan. He came to the attention of services in the UK, when he was picked up by the police and referred to Social Services. During an interview, he stated that he had just arrived into the UK on the back of a lorry, after an 18 month journey from Afghanistan. He fled his home village with his mother, after his father and sister were killed by the Taliban, leaving his surviving sister behind. However, during his journey from his home, his mother also died from injuries received at the point of flight. There were concerns around Tahir's mental state, due to reports of suicide attempts. He was referred to the Welsh Refugee Council (WRC) advocacy worker who assisted him in getting access to medical professionals, solicitors and activities and educational facilities aimed at young people. A referral was also made to Children's Services, who moved him to a hostel for young people. He was told that there are no available foster placements for him, which left him isolated and unhappy.

Case study : Eyllt – health, education, social work

Eyllt is 2 ½ years old and is due to have her routine health check up with the family health Visitor at home. This is the third time that Eyllt and her mother have been seen by Karen the Health Visitor. Eyllt speaks Welsh at home with her mother and father. Karen arrives and gets out some coloured wooden blocks, a measuring tape and her notes to document things. Karen and Mum chat in English about how things are in general, any concerns about Eyllt, and are there any questions? Mum mentions that Eyllt still doesn't have many words in her vocabulary and seems to struggle with certain sounds.

Karen suggests that Eyllt may need to be referred to a speech therapist. Mum asks if they can see someone who speaks Welsh to assess Eyllt as the therapist wouldn't know what was being mispronounced if she didn't speak Welsh. Karen replies that this is not possible at the moment but it would probably be OK in English anyway. Mum refused to have Eyllt referred and says she will consider it again in 6 months if there still hasn't been any improvement.

The consultation continues. Karen wants Eyllt to pick up the blocks in the order of colour she asks for. Karen says: "Can I have the red one please"?

Mum repeats – "Gallu di roi yr un coch iddi?" Eyllt responds accurately. This continues until the exercise is complete. Karen leaves stating she will be back for the pre school check up and to get in touch if there are any further concerns.

Case study : Elizabeth – health, education, social work

Elizabeth is 14 years old and lives with her parents and older brother. She has moderate learning difficulties and Prader-Willi Syndrome one of the features of which is obesity caused by an excessive appetite and overeating. Elizabeth finds difficulty controlling her behaviour and at home will have temper tantrums, rolling on the floor and shouting, if she is criticised by her parents. She attends a local high school but complains that she is being bullied by the other pupils and that the staff are not doing anything about it.