



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

Priority Families - case study

Background (500 words max)

The family consists of 5 children all boys MA 17, BB 14, JB 12, AB 8 and JB 6 and NA is a single mum. The father of the MC is not around and the father of the three middle children only lives up the road but has nothing to do with the children, the youngest child sees his father on a regular basis.

NA suffered from domestic violence from MA father and has also experienced this from MA within the home. There have been considerable behavioural problems from each of the three eldest children. MA has been violent and aggressive towards his brothers causing issues in the home. MA has been known to the Youth Offending Service for many years and was at one stage offered Intensive Fostering which he took, he took this opportunity and grew as a person and achieved at school with his behaviour and attitude improving. Towards the end of the fostering MA started to run away back home to Derby and the decision was made for MA to be put back with mum. Mum agreed with this but wanted MA to agree to the rules she put in place such as coming in on time, respecting the house and his brothers. MA kept to these at first but then his behaviour started to deteriorate again. He ruled the house and continued to do what he wanted, this behaviour had already started to rub off on his brothers and BB was displaying this behaviour to such an extent that he was taken into foster care by social services with the view of him coming back when things were more settled at home. The decision has now been made that BB will stay in foster care due to the situation at home not being acceptable. JB is now becoming a mirror image of his brothers, unfortunately the house has been a ground for learnt behaviour and the behaviour is very negative. Both BB and MA were excluded from school and AB has also been excluded on more than one occasion. JB has now been temporarily excluded awaiting assessment from Kingsmead Pupil Referral Unit. He has started to become involved in anti social behaviour in the community and abuse his mother and brothers at home. He has also displayed very aggressive behaviour towards workers within the home.

The property has not been cleaned in the 3 ½ years they have lived there, there has been around 6 cats plus kittens and a dog living in the property and the cats have been left to urinate and defecate on the floor. The dog is not looked after properly as he never taken on walks and is left locked in the kitchen and small back garden. This has caused the house to carry a very bad smell which can be smelt through the

windows.

Finance is a huge concern with NA due to her inability to open the letters that come through the door. NA will put the letter in a drawer or ignore it which has caused her to have court commons and bailiff threats amongst £1000 of arrears built up over the years. NA would not open them and therefore they did not exist.

NA suffers from Fibromyalgia and other health issues which means she takes a lot of medication this NA seems to be a catalyst to forgetting thing such as important appointments and waking up in the morning to get the children to school. The children were constantly late to school and their packed lunches were never ready for them to take with them, this meant that NA had to get the lunch to the school in time for dinner which sometimes never happened.

IFSW involvement

I became involved with the family in June and they took on my support straight away, there was no resistance from any member of the family. NA has embraced the changes although it has been a slow process with regards NA taking charge over her finances and opening all the letters that come through the door. We have started to deep clean each room of the house and this has been a challenge due to the in-depth dirt and cat urine and defecate that was on the carpet. We have looked at the needs of the family and to purchase a new Hoover was a primary need in order for NA to try and maintain the house. NA is taking more responsibility for the house and is slowly sorting through the cupboards and drawers. After challenging NA about her parenting skills and looking at what needs to be put in place NA has started to parent the children and put boundaries and sanctions in place, recently the behaviour of JB and AB have become more aggressive and disruptive at home and school causing exclusions and friction in the household. I have referred NA to Nacro Parenting to continue the good work we have started and to increase her confidence as a parent.

I have supported MA with his college applications and liaising with other agencies that can help MA find a course that he wants to do. I am working alongside his case manager and housing support to find him a suitable semi independent accommodation which will lead him to be more independent and responsible for his own actions. Taking his behaviour out of the family home will remove the negativity and tension that has been there for many years.

I have referred JB and AB to the preventative team to try and support them and find them constructive activities.

I have liaised with the council to improve the house and maintain the damage that has occurred over time.

With the amount of animals in the home this had become a problem to keeping the property clean, the kittens and 2 cats have now gone from the property leaving four cats and a dog. After three months of trying to find another home for Alfie the dog I have found him a lovely new home through Arundawn Dog Rescue.

Visits – Dedicated worker/ Practical support
I visit the house at least three times a week and have certainly worn plenty of rubber gloves helping the family clean. I speak to NA on a daily basis.
Goals – Common purpose and agreed action – formulated as part of the support plan/contract
<p>To work with NA to clean and encourage maintenance of the house</p> <p>To work with school and use their resources to help the children arrive at school on time</p> <p>Encourage routine within the house especially towards school dinners being ready for the children to take with them</p> <p>For the animals to be looked after and the correct facilities are available for them</p> <p>To support NA with her finances</p> <p>To encourage NA to open her letters on a daily basis, to deal with the letters appropriately and to file the bills away</p> <p>To support NA with her parenting and continuing to put consistent boundaries and rules in place</p>
Impact - Dedicated worker/ Practical support & a persistent, assertive and challenging approach
<p>The house is becoming cleaner and maintained very well with the use of the new Hoover</p> <p>The children are now picked up by a school mini bus and help NA to prepare their packed lunches the night before</p> <p>The dog is not being rehoused and only 2 cats are left in the property constantly waiting for their vaccinations</p> <p>NA is waiting for her ESA to start again and will then start to pay back the arrears that have increased over this time</p> <p>Na now opens all letters and will raise any concerns she has</p>
6 Months Later
<p>I will continue this work over the next 6 months and work to getting NA enrolled onto a training course as she would like to study for her GCSE's.</p> <p>To support all the children and work with MA when he is released from prison</p>
Sustainability

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