

Supporting Leicestershire Families – Case Study

Who is in the family- including ages of children?

Parent and 5 children aged between 6 and 14.

Concerns within the family upon referral:

Education – A number of the children have more than 10% absence recorded. The older child had been ‘bunking off’ school on a couple of occasions.

Worklessness – Mum was receiving work related benefits. Family is solely reliant on benefits; Family has financial difficulties, family is in rent arrears and has other debts.

Health – Adult within family has a mental health difficulty due to historic domestic abuse and the impact of this upon the children in terms of trauma. All of the children were not registered with a dentist at the time of referral.

Children in Need – Previous Social Care involvement. One child is reported to be displaying aggressive behaviour and also a young carer. Another child not meeting developmental milestones. Worries around children’s behaviour, lack of parenting, unstable and disruptive relationships in household. Oldest child struggling with impact of translating communications with family from professionals (dealing with parents’ divorce via solicitor).

Domestic violence/abuse - Victim of Domestic Abuse- historic. Children witnessed the historic domestic abuse.

Summary of reasons for referral and issues present in the family?

- Family is experiencing severe financial difficulties.
- Parent’s limited English - creating a barrier to accessing services and support.
- Parent's separation and how this is impacting on the children. Started with SLF group work but transferred to intensive due to financial difficulties and information disclosed at a BME group.

What outcomes were achieved?

- Parent in full-time employment – no longer claiming JSA for a period of at least 26 weeks.
- Debt management –payment schedules set up
- Improved parental and child mental and emotional health
- Positive whole family activities in place
- Health activities in place to promote physical fitness and general health for whole family
- Increased social networks for whole family and significant reduction in their isolation
- Better access to universal services partly due to removal of language barriers
- Improved parenting in terms of logical consequences, rewards, realistic expectations and improved family functioning and relationships
- Better routines in the home. Family are eating meals together now
- Children are no longer young carers
- Child no longer being bullied in school
- All children enjoying and achieving at school. Eldest has stopped absconding from school
- Increased online safety and awareness
- Increased parental confidence, resilience and emotional wellbeing
- Financially better off by £156 per week due to employment.
- No further reports of domestic abuse reported by family.

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