

Presenting Concerns:

Graham is 8 years old and recently his teacher has noticed a change in his attendance which has become inconsistent and his attention in class is poor. Graham's behaviour has become more challenging and he has been getting in to fights in the playground. The Named Person contacted his mum who mentioned that his older brother has been in trouble recently in the community and she thinks Graham is trying to copy him.

The following week Grahams mum contacts school and speaks to his Named Person - the Named Person in the school in the Head Teacher. His mum explains she is struggling to manage her children's behaviour and feels she can no longer cope. She states she is particularly struggling with her young daughter's outbursts and has been asking the boys to help out a lot. She's concerned that they are starting to resent this and both Graham and his older brother have been staying out late and refusing to come home at night. Graham's elder brother has been brought home by the police several times recently and his mother she states she has been threatened by neighbours to keep him under control. She's scared to leave the house and when she tried to stop the boys leaving the previous night Graham pushed and hit her before running out the door.

Family background:

Graham lives at home with his mum and two siblings. Paul is 13 and Sarah is 3 years old. Graham's mum suffered post-natal depression after Sarah was born and has struggled off and on with depression ever since. The house is very chaotic and Graham's mum reports that she struggles to keep on top of things due to her low moods and the children's behaviour.

Their mum's previous partner moved out over a year ago after Social Work became involved. The relationship between Graham's mum and her partner was violent and the children had witnessed a number of incidents. Graham's mum had been misusing substances at this time and was involved with addiction services. Initially the family refused support and would not engage resulting in the children becoming subject to a Compulsory Measure of Supervision. As a result of this Graham's mum started to engage with support services and this led to improvements in the family's situation and the compulsory order was removed.

Recently, due to incidents in the family home and in the local community, there has been tension with neighbours leaving Grahams mum unwilling to leave the family home.

Response:

The Named Person's initial information gathering reveal further concerns around Graham and his siblings and the decision is taken to hold a Child Wellbeing Meeting Education

All relevant support agencies are invited and Graham, Paul and their mum attend the meeting. Everyone is given the opportunity to have their voice heard and Graham explains that he feels angry and unhappy all the time but doesn't know why, he's also annoyed with his mum because she spend all her time looking after his younger sibling. His mum admits that she has been struggling to cope over the past few months and is back using drugs.

The following actions are agreed:

- Referrals will be made for all the children and their mum to the CEDAR projects to help support them with the impacts of the domestic violence they suffered.
- Grahams mum will re-engage with addiction services.
- Family referred to a third sector service to provide practical home and family relationships support
- Referral to a local out of school service to be made
- The Primary school head teacher will explore support options and activities for the summer holidays as this is identified as a potential pressure point for the family - CLD family learning activities and summer program session.
- A referral for a volunteer to support mum is pursued
- Named Person to support Graham in school and introduce Self-Regulation support and a Restorative Approach to his relationship conflicts in school
- Education to maintain links with out of school service
- A lead professional is agreed

The Named Persons for Health and Education schedule regular contact updates to ensure the effective sharing of information and a Childs Plan is agreed for Graham

The Childs Plan contains the names of the responsible individuals, the planned outcomes and the timescales for each action, to be coordinated by the Lead Professional and a date is set to review the Plan with the family.

Outcome:

The family received extensive support over the next few months. Graham's placement in the Out of school club is positive and it gives his mum some respite and she feels able to re-engage with addiction services.

Graham and his mum work with the CEDAR project and this helps Graham to process his emotions regarding the domestic abuse he witnessed and how it has impacted on his mum, and he starts to open up more about his feelings.

Through attending the out of school club Graham makes some new friends, who live a few streets away, and begins to play with them in the evenings. This means he no longer hangs around with his older brother's friends and he seems much happier about this. Graham's older brother however continues to put himself at risk in the community and concerns increase regarding his wellbeing.

Graham's mum makes some improvements and is engaging well with her methadone programme however her mental health remains poor and despite the improvements she reports regular 'low moods' and is scared she might slip back to using

The Lead Professional continues to progress the Child's Plan as agreed and a further review meeting is arranged. The improvements are acknowledged but with a number of issues and concerns still remaining new actions are agreed. Graham's Child's Plan is further developed and the Lead Profession remains in place to coordinate the activity.

Graham and his family still have a long way to go but they now feel like they have the capacity to make the changes that are needed and Graham feels he has people he can speak to if he needs help or support in future.