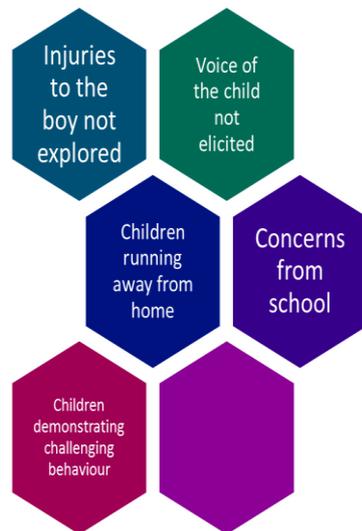


Genogram of the family



Family issues at a glance



Child issues at a glance

**Background information: this section outlines the key concerns in the families' histories please refer to this document to use as the basis of information you will share in the case exercise**

**1. Parental Health (substances and mental health)**

- Mother and Father had chronic substance and alcohol abuse
- Father had depression and taking antidepressant medication
- Mother allegedly dealing substances when children aged 7 and 3 years old.
- When children aged 6 and 3 years mother arrested for fraud and possession of substances

**2. Health for Tom aged 13 years**

- Tom at aged 3 sustained a fractured arm notes do not say how this happened or whether it was investigated
- Tom aged 5 years attends A&E with laceration to his hip, notes do not say how this happened, there is no referral to social services
- Tom aged 6 years attends school with cigarette burn to his hand, Mother gave explanation it was self-inflicted with a cigarette lighter. Contact made with children's services, no further action can be seen on the records.
- Tom's behaviour deteriorates after physical abuse incident when he was aged 9 years, police attend one incident to calm him, he was returned to care of maternal grandparents to allow him to calm down.

**3. Health for Asha aged 9 years**

- At age 4 years Asha reported to be wetting herself
- Aged 4-7 Asha required speech therapy due to a stammer

**4. Domestic Abuse**

- Police attended a number of domestic incidents over the years
- Domestic incident, children aged 6 and 2, both parents intoxicated referral made to children's services
- Children aged 7 and 3 years are collected from school by father who is intoxicated, this is followed by a domestic incident, Tom is hit during the altercation. S.47 investigation examination of injuries not conclusive. Not enough evidence to proceed to criminal proceedings.
- Father returns children to mothers care as he cannot cope, mother allowed to keep children even though authorities aware of her substance misuse and associated criminality
- Domestic incident, father intoxicated and violent, children aged 8 and 4 years, police arrived but no one at home, no risk assessment made of the children

**5. Physical Abuse**

- NSPCC referral reported mother intoxicated and hitting both children in the street, the children were aged 7 and 3 years

- Tom aged 8 years runs away from home, states father always drunk and physically abusive. Both Tom and his father were seen by the police. Deemed safe for child to stay with father, referral made to children's services.
- Children aged 8 and 4; anonymous referral stating mother hitting children and that Tom has cigarette burns. Burn reported to be accidental so no follow up.
- Children aged 9 and 5 referral made alleging uncle had hit Tom at the hostel. In addition mother was drunk and aggressive throwing chairs. S.47 happened; advised legal planning but this did not take place.

## **6. Stability of Housing**

- 2007 when children aged 5 and 1 years, family are evicted from mother's house, they move in with maternal grand parents
- Children aged 8 and 4; mother reporting cannot cope with children so children move in with maternal aunt.
- The year children aged 8 and 4 they experience frequent house moves between parents and extended relatives, there is little stability; parents ignore court orders as to where children should be living.
- Father's drinking self-reported to be improving so children aged 8 and 4 move back in with him, decision made at child protection conference.
- By the time the children were 9 and 5 they were living in a hostel with their mother who was reported by staff to be intoxicated.

## **7. Neglect**

- Tom aged 6 years is removed from mother's care into father's care after period of neglect his physical appearance had deteriorated. Core assessment stated good relationship between son and father but did not mention father's substance misuse.
- Tom aged 8 years father arrested for neglect after leaving the children whilst intoxicated also children alleging physical abuse. Children accommodated with paternal grandparents. Later discovered that grandparents were not deemed safe.
- Father arrested for neglect when Tom aged 8 years this was in relation to incident of him being drunk in charge of a child, this child was neither Tom nor Asha but was a friend's child. He was arrested for neglect. Father received a caution.

## **8. Sexual abuse**

- Child Services notes children aged 8 and 4 are demonstrating sexualised behaviour, this was not shared at the child protection conference.
- When the children were aged 11 and 7 years Asha disclosed sexual abuse alleged against her Father. Tom later that year also discloses sexual abuse.

WHEN THE CHILDREN WERE AGED 11 AND 7 THEY WERE MADE SUBJECTS OF A CARE ORDER

## CASE EXERCISE

- In groups of five
- Person A is the mother or father
- Person B is one of the children
- Person C is the worker
- Person D is the observer
- Person E is the information provider and manager of worker C

Using the neglect toolkit and assessment please assess the family and then as a group decide on your actions.

Roles:

**Person A** you can choose to be the mother or the father your role is to provide as much information as possible to the worker. Your acting skills would be greatly appreciated but please do not be too obstructive the aim of the exercise is to help the worker achieve an assessment.

**Person B** your role is to choose to be Tom or Asha. Your main objective is to get the voice of the child heard.

**Person C** your role is to conduct the assessment at any time you can ask for more information from the observer and advice from your manager

**Person D** your role is to provide the group members with the information on the background sheet and to write observations of the session;

- What went well
- What the group felt could have been assessed or dealt with in more detail
- And to provide group work feedback on behalf of the group

**Person E** your role is to support the worker and provide advice by telephone or face to face at the request of the worker. You can also stop the session to provide supervision to the worker when you think it necessary.