

Life at home

Briony is a 26 year old single Mum of three; Cody aged 18 months, Ella aged 3 and Callum aged 6. The children's father Craig is currently in prison for drug offences, he is due for release next month. Prior to his incarceration two years ago he had little contact with Briony or the children although he would occasionally turn up at the house unannounced sometimes staying overnight. There is a history of domestic violence between the parents which the two older children have witnessed. Briony and the children live in private rented accommodation and Briony is currently in receipt of benefits. Briony has some outstanding debt following purchases from Bright House. Briony has limited support from her extended family and as a child spent periods of time in care due to longstanding neglect after the death of her Mum.

Briony suffered from post-natal depression following the birth of Ella and again following the birth of Cody. Briony feels she does not need support with her mental health following her previous community psychiatric nurse leaving.

Briony is known to social care following DV notifications from the Police and suspected drug dealing from the property.

Recent Events

School have completed a single assessment as they have concerns about Callum and Ella turning up to School/Nursery late unwashed unkempt and hungry. School are also concerned that Callum has become increasingly aggressive which may be as a result of the violence he has witnessed at home. Mum has admitted that she is struggling due to worrying about the impending release of Craig. The single assessment identified the need for family support to become involved to improve household routines, support to access mental health services, debt and housing issues and for Mum to understand the impact of domestic violence on the children.

Under the old model

The school refers the family to the Early Help Access Team requesting family support. Following the hub allocation meeting the family is allocated an outreach family support worker. A family support worker visits the family at home and finds:

- The home is in a state of disrepair with kitchen cupboards missing and the stair bannister hanging off the wall as well as damp in the kitchen and several loose electrical sockets.
- The home is also unclean and untidy with several days' worth of washing up in the sink, piles of both dirty and damp washing, overflowing ashtrays and sticky carpets.
- None of the children are in school/nursery or dressed. The visit was at 11am.

Briony described that the impending release of her ex-partner has made her anxious which has led to a lack of motivation and routines within the home.

The family support worker persuades her to make an appointment with her GP and that the children would be better off attending school/nursery every day to get the children into a better routine. She also agrees to some additional support towards keeping the house cleaner and tidier.

Under the Early Help Hubs Model.

Because the school are part of the 'school as community hub' programme they have a named worker from the Early Help Hub that regularly attends their multi agency meetings. The school discussed their concerns about Calum and their concerns about the home situation. The Early Help worker agreed that some short term intensive support was required to support mum and the children. An Early Help Key worker was allocated to deliver an intervention that focused on safer relationships and confidence building. Practical strategies were discussed so mum could manage the chores required. The Key worker called a multi-agency meeting (with mums consent) which involved the Police to look at strategies for staying safe and preparing for the fathers release from prison. A worker from the Healthy Child Programme was also part of the meeting who agreed to support Callum and his challenging behaviour. The Key worker tapped into the Early Help Hub database of things going on locally and linked mum to a group (which meet at a local café) which had recently been set up by a group of mums as a self support group of survivors of domestic abuse. The plan was that the Key worker would work with mum for a maximum of 6 months and in that time mum would attend the local support group and have enough confidence (through the resilience work the key worker was doing) to tackle issues before they came to a head and affected family life.

Targeted