

CSU Away Day
Family case studies; possible risks and proposed interventions

Purple family

The Purple family recently moved to a new property following the birth of their second child, Marie. Mum, Anna, and dad, James, also have a two year old, Tommy. Their new house is situated on a corner by an alleyway and there are a group of local youths who often meet there and sit on the front wall being noisy, usually when Tommy and Marie are in bed.

After being confronted by James, the youths have started throwing stones at the property and shouting insults several times a week. Graffiti has appeared on their front wall and James has had his car keyed. He is away at work most of the day and sometimes late into the evening. Anna stays inside with her young children and feels increasingly intimidated and vulnerable and is often crying when James arrives home. James has persuaded Anna to visit her doctor and after confiding in him that she can't cope, has been prescribed pills to help her sleep. James has shouted at the youths to go away and threatened them but it makes them worse.

Associated risks for this family

- James may take the law into his own hands
- Anna's general mental health could deteriorate
- Children at risk from lack of sleep and Mum's mental health
- Children at risk from lack of development/stimulation
- Possible domestic violence
- Risk to the youths from James, and concerns about their offending and possible criminal activity
- Whole family at risk of isolation
- Risk to the community as a whole
- General degradation of the area

Proposed interventions/referrals

CSU to coordinate intelligence gathering with regard to:

- Why it is happening
- Who is involved
- Speak to both parties – youth and the family

Agencies involved: wardens, PCSOs, youth workers, police, family workers, health visitors	
FAMILY intervention	YOUTH intervention
Reassurance via visits	Identify who they are
ASB diary	Engagement with both youth and their families
Risk assessment on Joint Problem Solving Database	Investigation (police)
Health visitor/children's centre to check medication and health of children	Target hardening e.g. close the alleyway
Establish what family support is already available to Mum	Investigate possible drug abuse
Explain boundaries to Dad	Street cleaning
Establish what the family want to happen and manage expectations	Possible restorative justice/mediation

Red family

The Red family, mum Melissa and 13 year old Liam, moved into a housing association property after Melissa, and Liam's father, David, split up. Melissa has not worked since Liam was born as David would not let her. David has been in and out of prison for violence offences. He is frequently seen in local pubs where he drinks heavily and can become aggressive.

Liam spent much of his early childhood living with his grandparents while David was in prison as Melissa couldn't cope. Liam now lives with Melissa although they have a volatile relationship. Liam recently ran away to live with his dad, but came back when they fell out. He is often absent from school and teachers have noted that he has some anger issues and can bully other children.

Associated risks for this family

- Isolation and vulnerability for Melissa
- Alcohol abuse
- Domestic abuse – historic impact on mother and son & increased risk through the breakdown of the relationship
- School absence (Liam) – possibility of going missing
- Bullying behaviour on part of Liam to his peers, and from David
- Impact of abuse on the family relationships
- Lack of finances
- Increased risk of mental health issues
- ASB on the community and residents

Proposed interventions/referrals

Domestic Violence	David	School (Liam)	Grandparents
Domestic Abuse Volunteer Support Services (DAVSS) referral, Citizens Advice, National Centre for Domestic Violence	Job Centre Plus	Common Assessment Framework (CAF) referral	To offer support & occasional respite for Liam
PPU to investigate any offences	Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme	Youth Inclusion and Support Panel (YISP)	
Freedom programme for Melissa	Alcohol Treatment Requirement (ATR)	Anger management	
Social Services	Probation Officer	Schools Officer	
CAF referral	Resettlement Officer	Educational Welfare Officer (EWO)	
Housing support services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emotional support • Financial advice • training & employment services 	Licensing referral to Licensing Officer & Night-time Coordinator re. drinking in local pub & aggressive behaviour	Deal with bullying	

Orange family

Trevor Orange lives with his two children, Sophie aged 17, and Michael, 16. They live in a terraced house owned by the local housing association. Trevor's wife, the mother of Sophie and Michael, recently passed away and to make ends meet Trevor works additional night shifts. Sophie is enrolled at college but her attendance is slipping and Michael has just left school and is NEET.

While Trevor is out at work, Sophie and Michael host frequent parties at the house. During the parties they drink alcohol and play loud music until the early hours of the morning and are rude to anyone who complains. Neighbours have reported the noise and the smell of cannabis.

Associated risks for this family

Household	Trevor	Sophie	Michael	Community
Notice of Seeking Possession (NOSP) eviction injunction from housing association	Not coping with grief	Dropping out of college	Needs support into training, education and employment	House becoming magnet for youth ASB
Prosecution from Environmental Health	Not sustaining tenancy	Could become NEET	Risk of criminality	Other families at risk (other youths)
CSU warnings	Could lose his job	Pregnancy	Drugs & alcohol	Neighbours reporting ASB – quality of life
Possible criminal convictions	Lack of parenting skills	Drugs & alcohol	Not dealt with grief	Criminal damage in the area
Family breakdown		Not dealt with grief	Lack of job prospects	
Property deterioration		Needs support	Homelessness	

Proposed interventions/referrals

- FIF worker – ‘carrot and stick’ approach
- Check claiming benefits – Sherwood project, Citizens Advice Bureau, Town & Country Housing Group (TCHG)
- Social housing intervention – TCHG (keep tenancy)
- Education – Connections for Michael
- Grief counselling
- Nuisance/ASB
 - Police, CSU, PCSOs, TCHG, wardens
 - Environmental Health – notices etc
 - Drugs and alcohol - KDAT

Green family

Matthew and Janine Green live in a property they bought from the housing association. Two years ago, Matthew lost his job. Since then he has begun to gamble and drink heavily until he passes out. Janine works at the local primary school that her youngest child, William, attends. Both parents smoke.

They have three children; William aged ten, Luke aged 12 and Sean aged 14. The boys do fight but are protective of each other outside of the home. Sean hangs around with a group of boys from his estate who cause anti-social behaviour. He steals cigarettes from his parents and smokes them with his friends. He is suspected of doing graffiti and was recently given a police reprimand for setting a recycling bin on fire. Since moving to high school last year, Luke has begun to hang around more with his older brother. William attends school regularly and will soon be moving to the high school which his brothers attend.

Risks	Proposed interventions/ referrals
Dad	
Gambling dependency	Gamblers Anonymous
Alcohol abuse	CRI
Domestic violence	Troubled Families
Unemployment	Job Centre
Financial issues & possible repossession of house	Citizens Advice Bureau
Children (CAF)	
School exclusion	Liaise with EWO/FLO
Safeguarding issues	Family intervention,
Further criminal offences – YOS/prison	YISP, Youth Service
Peer issues	Youth Service, Porchlight mentoring
Further fires	KFR house check
Mother	
Lack of support	Carers First, warden, PCSO
Health problems	GP
ASBO order on the family – could affect mother's employment	

Blue family

Alice Blue, 16, lives with her nine month old son Jake and her grandmother, Lillian. Accommodation is cramped but Alice was forced to move out of her parents' home when she became pregnant with Jake. Lillian is obese and has mobility problems which keeps her inside the house and in front of the TV most of the time. Alice doesn't work and looks after Jake, her grandmother and the house full time. She left school early with no qualifications and was recently caught shoplifting baby clothes. As it was her first offence, she was dealt with via restorative practice.

Associated risks for this family

- Overcrowding
- Obesity and ill health
- Benefit/eviction
- No qualifications (Alice)
- Crime drivers
- Sexual health
- TV licence offence
- Lack of nutrition
- Poor family structure
- Income/universal credit
- Caring responsibility; social isolation

Proposed interventions/referrals

1. FIF worker
2. CC
3. YAPs, GP, Homestart, Housing, JCP

Possible outcomes

- Raising aspirations
- Good parenting
- Healthy eating
- Widening support network
- Independence