



Case Study 2

Family Support and Early Intervention

Introduction

k and his family came to us via their Social Worker. Accessing an Early Years setting was a directive of K's Child Protection Plan. The family were dealing with the aftermath of a devastating court case which had led to extended family breakdown and significantly impacted the mental health of both parents. A week after enrolling with us we were advised the CP Plan had been closed and that ongoing support to the family would be placed in our hands.

Providing the best care and support early on

Actions before starting Preschool

- Arrange a home visit and information gathering exercise
- Read through all reports and created a Child Protection File - this included all contact details of agencies that were working with the family throughout the duration of the Child Protection plan
- Allocated a Senior Key worker with Child Protection experience
- Arranged a number of settling in visits
- Arranged a meeting with the parents and some extended family members who shared his care.

K started Preschool and attendance was regular and parents were engaged following the thorough and robust settling in process. K was happy and engaged in the setting.

Early Intervention

Our qualified practitioners and K's Key Person observed behaviour changes in k, he became withdrawn and often stared into space one minute and then was aggressive towards other the children the next and he was destructive in his play. These observations were shared between the team in their **End of Day Debrief**.

Intensive observations were actioned From her detailed observations of k it became clear that he had stopped making progress, especially in Communication and Language and we were concerned that this could be a result of experiencing trauma.

The diligence of her observations meant that the following actions were taken

Actions

- Observations were recorded in his Child protection file as causes for concern
- An urgent meeting was held between the manager and key person to discuss the safeguarding concerns
- A referral was made to the duty and advice line and a social worker was assigned to further assess the family

Next

Following a risk assessment of the family by CSWS (childrens Social Work Services) the preschool was asked to initiate an **Early Help Plan** involving extended family and all the agencies that were working with the family before he started at Preschool.

We provided an extremely supportive environment for the parents, to help them to meet the targets on their plan. k's mother, often daily, came to talk to our practitioners about the problems she was facing in her personal life and she asked for advice in how to handle different situations with K at home.

Actions

- Setting up an early Help plan and contacting relevant agencies who had previously supported the family and who could potentially support from here on
- Ensure the Child Protection File is updated whenever there is new information to record.
- Create an open door policy and a welcoming environment for parents to ensure they feel supported and safe to share information and seek advice and support
- We made referrals to SALT and to SENIT.

Ongoing support around the Early Help Plan

We also supported the parents practical needs such as being flexible with the hours K attended rather than insisting he attended 'fixed' session times. Making reasonable adjustments to start and finish times to support personal circumstances. The impact of this meant that K's mother felt supported and was able to take on board advice and make the changes that the family needed.

SEND Actions and support to ensure impact and progress was made.

- Following our referrals for targeted support and funding we were happy to be informed our SEND funding applications were successful, and that K would be accessing SALT in the community.
- Our experienced practitioners put into place all the recommendations from these agencies in targeted daily interventions and kept track of the progress through a SEND Journal .
- K attended speech therapy with his Mother. She became anxious about the appointments and felt she did not understand what she needed to do so one of our practitioners attended a session with her to give moral support. We used the top up Pupil Premium money to pay for backfilling staff to enable this.
- Our SENCO used some of K's EYFFI funding stream to provide K with targeted support from a private Speech therapist in our setting .

These **Early Interventions** resulted in K making huge progress, he no longer presented worrying behaviour and was happy and secure in our setting. His parents said his behaviour improved at home too. Additionally this resulted his attainment gap closing considerably before he started Reception.

A Testimonial from K's Mother :

“this nursery is a very highly recommended. my son left in July and he always felt safe and happy here. the staff are amazing and help ed my family with some tough times so all round support as well as been on hand for my son who had delays, with the help of staff he managed to thrive. best nursery in Leeds would 100% recommend this amazing place for those who are looking.”

Glossery

CSWS - Children's Social Work Services

SENIT - Special Educational Needs Inclusion Team

SALT - Speech and Language Therapy

SEND - Special Educational Needs and Disability

Pupil Premium/ PP - a top up from the local authority for children in deprivation

Further information from LEYA LEARN coming soon

- How to initiate an Early Help Plan
- How to write a cause for concern
- Attending a Child Protection Conference
- Preparing for a Child Protection review
- Setting up a Child Protection File
- How Early Intervention works
- Engaging Parents to Share Information
- Starting a support group
- Importance of daily planning and the End of day debrief
- Pupil Premium - evidencing the spend and impact.