

The Johnson/Wade family

Jermaine aged 13
Rosa aged 6
Jacky aged 3

Stella Wade aged 30
Mother

Tony Johnson aged 32
Father

The family are of white British origin.

Stella and Tony have been together for fifteen years. Their relationship has become increasingly antagonistic, with more frequent episodes of domestic violence and separations that last for weeks.

Jermaine is a tall, thin boy with a sad demeanour. He attends Manor Way Secondary School. He is usually late for school when he attends and in the last year his attendance has deteriorated to the extent of missing one day in four. The Education Welfare Service has become involved to address this problem. He has free school meals, but lunchtime supervisors have reported that he regularly wants other children to give him their leftovers. Jermaine's year tutor has expressed concern that Jermaine is expected to take on too many caring responsibilities at home, especially in respect of his younger siblings.

Rosa attends West Park Primary School. . There are similar problems to Jermaine about attendance and lateness. Initially she had seemed more able socially and academically but in recent months she has seemed to struggle at school, finding it hard to concentrate in lessons and seeming more isolated at play times.

Jacky has started attending the school nursery. There have been concerns about poor hygiene, little or no provision of food for lunch by her parents, untreated nits and behaviour problems with Jacky hitting out at other children when she does not get her own way. A developmental check found that her speech and language was delayed by around nine months.

Stella has a history of depression dating back to the time after Jacky was born and she has found maintaining routine for the children increasingly difficult. She has been prescribed anti-depressants but she has reported a mixed response to these, saying that sometimes they help her feel better but at others leaving her feeling sluggish. She has been referred for counselling and for help from a Community Psychiatric Nurse but then did not attend the appointments she was offered.

Tony has a long history of criminal offences, mainly theft. He also has convictions for possession of cannabis and amphetamines. He has been employed intermittently, but he has difficulty holding down jobs, apparently related to his tendency to lose his temper easily. Stella has said that Tony has been violent to her on numerous occasions, especially after he had been drinking or taking drugs. As a result Stella has separated from Tony but they have then been reconciled within a period of weeks.

A CAF was completed by the Health Visitor and this identified a range of services needed to address the issue identified above. These included:

Parents' Support Group at the local Children's Centre for both Tony and Stella.

Referral to Speech and Language Therapy for Jacky.

Provision of Early Years Visitor to assist Stella in providing Jacky with additional play and stimulation.

Involvement of Education Welfare Service to improve children's school attendance records.

Referral for Stella to the Women's Refuge Project for advice and counselling about domestic violence issues

Referral for Tony to CRI/Equinox regarding substance misuse issues.

Jermaine to be offered the chance to go to the School Breakfast Club.

Jermaine to be offered counselling in the school and referral to be made to the Young Carer's Project

Since completion of the CAF Tony has refused to attend the Children's Centre and does not agree he needs to attend substance misuse services.

Stella attended two of the Parents' Support Groups but then stopped going. She has taken Jacky to three out of four Speech and Language appointments. The Education Welfare Officer as managed to gain entry on one out of four occasions - there has been no improvement in the children's school attendance. Stella has said she can't see the point of going to the Women's Refuge Project.

When the Health Visitor calls to see Jacky and Stella today she is concerned that the house is very cold and Jacky is wearing only pyjama bottoms. She notices that Jacky has bruising on her back suggestive of finger tip marks. Stella is evasive about the cause of injury, saying at first that Jacky must have fallen over and then that it must have been Tony who did it.