

Single Assessment/I.C.P.C. Report

Person details

Jacky Johnson/Wade

Gender: Female

Address

6 Fonthill Drive
Brighton
BN2 7XX

Complexity

High

Risk

High

Screening Manager's Reason for Assessment/Initial plan/timescale for seeing child

Jacky has sustained an unexplained injury which paediatric assessment indicates is unlikely to be accidental. Jacky and her two siblings, Rosa and Jermaine, appear to be suffering significant harm due to neglect. There are concerns about domestic violence, parental substance misuse and mental ill health.

Is there a CAF form recorded for this child/young person?

Yes

If yes please record details here

Family CAF

CAF ID is 0000

CAF LP is (name) Health Visitor Tel:

CAF started on (date). CAF completed (date)

Names of Parents/Carers contacted in writing

Stella Wade

Tony Johnson

Has a letter been sent to professionals advising them that an assessment is being undertaken?

Via e-mail to professional network

Names of professionals contacted in writing

Detective Constable, Child Protection Team

Health Visitor

Probation Officer

Designated Person Manor Way Secondary School

Designated Person West Park Primary School

School Nurse West Park Primary School

Nursery Manager

GP

Outcome of previous Child Protection Conference

Not applicable

Is a strategy discussion required? Yes

If yes is a S.47 investigation required? Yes

Comment on whether the complaints procedure was provided to the family/young person together with documents on the Access to Records Policy and the feedback questionnaire

At the initial home visit

Enabling communication

Category

Notes

Significant in chronology?

Where a child/young person OR parent has a disability or where they have specific communication needs (e.g. impairment affecting communication or English is not the first language) what actions have been taken.

Jacky has delayed speech. She has been referred for further Speech and Language Therapy appointments

Are there any needs arising from identity e.g. ethnicity, religion, language, disability, sexuality and any specific cultural issues No

If yes please give details

Family Details
Details of all subject children

Jacky Johnson/Wade

D.o.B: Age three

Notes

Ethnicity

Category White British

ID/Name: Rosa Johnson/Wade

DoB: Age Six

Notes

Ethnicity

Category White British

Notes

Significant in chronology? No

Religion

Category None

Notes

Significant in chronology? No

First language

Category English

Notes

Significant in chronology? No

ID/Name: Jermaine Johnson/Wade

DoB: Age 13

Notes

Ethnicity

Category White British

Notes

Significant in chronology? No

Religion

Category None

Notes

Significant in chronology? No

First language

Category English

Notes

Significant in chronology? No

Family Household composition and significant others

Name Stella Wade

Relationship Mother

End Reason

Notes

Name Tony Johnson

Relationship Father

End Reason

Notes:

Any additional significant others not on Carefirst

Eleanor Wade maternal grandmother

Please detail the ethnicity of family members

White British

Please give details of those with Parental Responsibility

Type:

Name: Stella Wade

Address: 6 Fonthill Drive
Brighton
BN2 7XX

Email

Phone 01273 458217

Notes

Chronology of family background/history

Previous date – A neighbour of the family contacted the police when she heard shouting and screaming from inside Johnson/Wade home. Police attended and no immediate action was taken as Stella refused to make any statement and did not appear to be injured. The children were all in bed. Jermaine was still awake and said he heard shouting but he didn't see anything.

Previous date - Police executed a stolen goods warrant at the Johnson/Wade address. Items were recovered, drugs were found within children's reach. Broken and faulty plug socket in children's room which could be reached with ease by the children. Tony Johnson became verbally abusive to the Police in front of the children.

Previous date - Incident of domestic violence was reported by neighbours. Tony apparently had grabbed Stella and thrown her across the room causing her to strike her face against a door. Stella

was seen at Accident and Emergency and made a formal complaint about the violence, but she later withdrew this statement saying it had been an accident.

Previous date - Family CAF completed

Date - Health Visitor notes finger tip bruising on Jacky's back. When Stella was asked how it happened she suggested that Jacky must have fallen or that perhaps Tony had caused the marks. A joint home visit was carried out with an officer from the police child protection team. The flat smelt strongly of urine and there were soiled nappies left lying around the living room. The flat was cold and Stella said that she had no money left to feed the meter as Tony had taken her last ten pounds that morning and she would not be getting any benefits until the following day. When I asked what the children would eat that evening Stella said she had a packet of cornflakes and a pint of milk.

Has holder of parental responsibility given consent for agency checks to be made? Yes

If checks made without consent has this been agreed by a manager? Not applicable

Checks with other agencies

See S.47 document

Visit

Has the child been seen as part of this assessment? Yes

Was child seen alone?

Jacky	No
Rosa	Yes
Jermaine	Yes

Date of visit

Summary and analysis following initial visit to the child whilst undertaking the Single Assessment

There has been intermittent Social Care involvement with this family since Rosa was born six years ago. There have been concerns about the state of the home, the children's developmental progress and many missed appointments e.g for immunizations.

There have been concerns raised by professionals about the parents' ability to meet the basic physical and emotional needs of the children. There is a history of domestic violence. Tony Johnson has acknowledged using cannabis and amphetamines.

Most recent incident was finger tip bruising found on Jacky's back. This is one in a series of concerns that led to the convening of this Initial Child Protection Conference.

Assessment Programme

Continuation of Single Assessment

Management Decision

Date - Single Assessment required given risk factors indicated above.

Significant in Chronology? No

Child/Young Person's Needs

Experience of child in their family and their identity

Jacky is three years old. Her experience of life in her family has been one of very variable quality of emotional and physical care. She will not have experienced much nurture or affection from her father because he does not see that as his role. She has experienced nurture from her mother but Stella's emotional availability has been affected negatively by depression and feeling overwhelmed at times so Jacky cannot predict how her mother is likely to respond to her. Jacky apparently experiences being smacked on a regular basis by her father.

Jacky has experienced her basic needs for food, clean and adequate clothing, and a warm home environment being met sometimes but not often enough and inconsistently. She has learned to seek care from her older siblings, particularly Jermaine, in the absence of care from her parents.

Rosa's experience of life in her family has similarities to that of Jacky in that her basic needs are met inconsistently by her parents and she looks to Jermaine at times that her mother is unavailable. She too, apparently, is regularly smacked by her father. It seems likely that Rosa has experienced deterioration in the quality of physical and emotional care she has received since her sister was born as many of Stella's difficulties date from that time.

Not a lot is known about Jermaine's early years and this is an area that needs further exploration in the process of assessment. In recent years, Jermaine's experience is also that of a very variable response by his parents to his basic emotional and physical needs but in addition he has taken on a caring role in respect of his siblings and indeed his mother.

All three children have been exposed to domestic violence which will have been very frightening experiences for them. At this stage it is not known if they have witnessed Tony under the influence of drugs.

Developmental Needs

There have been concerns about Jacky's health and development since she was born and further detail about this is contained in the Health Visitor's report. Recently Jacky sustained bruising to her back, an injury for which Stella has provided an inconsistent explanation. Tony has denied all knowledge of the injury. According to the Consultant Paediatrician who examined Jacky the bruising is highly likely to be non-accidental.

Jacky attends the school nursery. There have been concerns about poor hygiene, little or no provision of food for lunch by her report parents, nits which apparently been left untreated. The nursery staff report that they have struggled to gain the parents' co-operation in addressing these issues.

Rosa is aged six. She attends West Park Primary School. There are significant concerns about her attendance as she is in school only about two thirds of the time. When she is at school she is reported

as having difficulties concentrating and seems isolated from her class mates.

Rosa says the thing she likes best about school is the dinners. She says that when she is at home she would like there to be more things to eat.

Neither Jacky nor Rosa is receiving the level of play and stimulation that they need. Tony does not see it as his role to do this and Stella reports not usually having the energy to do so.

Jermaine is aged 13 He attends Manor Way Secondary School. He is a thin child and staff report that he often appears hungry. He has free school meals, but lunchtime supervisors have reported that he regularly pesters other children to give them their leftovers. There are similar issues to Rosa about school attendance and Jermaine has told his teachers he is often needed to look after his siblings and his mother. At school there have been occasions when he has been teased by his class mates for being “smelly “.

Jermaine’s role as a young carer has a detrimental effect upon his education. This is not just because he takes time off school to look after his siblings and/or his mother. When he is at school he is concerned about how his mother is coping without him, making it harder to concentrate on his school work.

The social presentation of all three children is of constant concern in that their clothing is often unsuitable for the time of year and is usually dirty. In Jermaine’s case he does not seem to have been taught self care skills that might help improve his social presentation.

Needs arising from disability

Not applicable

Parenting Capacity

Tony has said consistently that he regards it as Stella’s job to meet the basic needs of their three children. He will however take the children to school and collect them.

In discussion with Tony I have found him very critical of some of the children's behaviour and his expectations of them, to play quietly, not to fight with each other or get upset seem unrealistic. His main method of setting guidance and boundaries is to smack the children. Jermaine has stated that his siblings get smacked "a lot" and I have observed Jermaine to be quite watchful around his father.

A major concern is the history of domestic violence, as Tony is demonstrating and modelling poor self control and the use of threats and hitting as a method of getting his own way. To date Tony has been dismissive of the idea that the children are likely to be frightened at these times and that such behaviour has a negative impact on his relationship with them. He also does not seem to recognize the potential damaging effect on Stella's mental health.

Stella demonstrates a positive attitude to all three children and I have seen them go to her for cuddles and affection. However the history indicates that she is overwhelmed at times with the task of meeting their physical and emotional needs

There are very few toys in the household and the ones I saw were dirty and broken. Stella has told me that Tony won't play with the children and that she does not usually have the energy.

The records show that at times Stella has indicated that she is worried about the children witnessing domestic violence and what effect it has on them. At others she has said "that's just how it is" and questioned whether she can cope if she has to bring up the children on her own.

Family and Environmental Factors

The family history requires further assessment but it is known that Stella grew up in a household where her father was violent to her mother, Eleanor Wade. Eleanor left her husband when Stella was about eight, taking her children with her.

Tony was taken into care at the age of ten, having been rejected by his parents on the grounds that he was "out of control". He subsequently had five different foster homes until he left care aged 16.

The couple's relationship is very volatile, especially since Rosa was born. Stella has told me that she has lost count of the number of times she and Tony have separated, usually following a domestic violence incident. Stella has said that following the injury to Jacky she is permanently separated from Tony. However, this statement needs to be treated with caution at this stage as Stella has made similar statements in the past only to be reconciled with Tony subsequently.

The only member of the wider family who lives locally is Stella's mother, Eleanor Wade. She is very willing to help Stella with the care of the children and they all speak positively about "gran". She has helped clean and tidy the flat when Stella has been depressed and will sometimes take the children out to the park to give Stella a break. However, Stella and her mother frequently fall out over Stella's relationship with Tony and this has led to periods of no contact between them lasting months.

The family is very socially isolated with Stella able to identify only one friend in the neighbourhood. There have been at least five attempts to involve Stella in community resources, such as the local children's centre, which would support her and the children but Stella has stopped going after a few sessions on each occasion.

Tony has worked as a scaffolder and a labourer but has had difficulty securing regular work, apparently related to his tendency to lose his temper easily. Stella would like to work but does not see this as realistic until Jacky is in full time school. As a consequence the family is largely dependent on benefits. Stella has said she can "just about manage" but there have been three instances when she has reported money taken from her by Tony, apparently to buy drugs.

**Client, Parent/Carer Views
Views of Child/Young Person (or reason for not including these)**

Jacky – given her age and delayed speech and language she is not in a position to give a view.

I have seen Rosa once on her own at school. She was quite wary of me which is understandable given we had not met before. She told me a little bit about her home life. She said her favourite food was sausages and beans. She described her mother as “sad” and she felt like she wanted to cheer her up and sometimes she gave her mother a cuddle in the hope that would work.

I have met Jermaine once on his own to go through the Young Person friendly report. Jermaine has said that he “hates it when Dad hits Mum”. He has also reported that his siblings get smacked by his father “a lot”. When asked what he meant by “a lot” Jermaine said “most days”.

Jermaine said he worried about what might happen as a result of the Conference and feared that he and his sisters could be taken away from their parents and put “in care”.

Jermaine said he was concerned about his mum and thought that she needs help in looking after him and his sisters. He wondered how she would cope if he were not there.

Views of Parents/Carers

I have discussed this report separately with Stella Wade and Tony Johnson.

Stella agrees that her depressed mood gets in the way of attending to all of the children’s physical and emotional needs. She has said that she does need help if the children’s circumstances are to improve. Stella said that she did not think that the children needed to be subject to Child Protection Plans.

Tony’s view was that Social Services had exaggerated the concerns about the children. He said that all couples had the odd row and he couldn’t see what the fuss was about. He agreed that he smacked the children but thought that was how most parents disciplined their children. He did not think the children needed Child Protection Plans.

Analysis of Risk & Strengths

There is a history of chronic neglect in respect of all three children and, although there have been periods of improvement, these have not been sustained. Stella can demonstrate warmth and care for the children but she has been unable to meet some of their basic needs for food, adequate clothing, play and stimulation and school attendance. Tony abdicates responsibility for almost all the child care to Stella except for sometimes taking them to school. There is evidence he has given priority to buying drugs over the children's needs for food and heating in the home.

Stella has demonstrated some determination to try and make things different for the children. For example, she took Jacky to three out of four speech and language appointments recently. However, there is a pattern with both parents of non-engagement with services or of a short involvement followed by disengagement. This is very concerning given how much needs to change to create a safe, nurturing environment for the children.

Tony's violence to Stella, as well negatively affecting the children, is likely to make her depression worse and makes it harder for her to cope as a mother. It also alienates Eleanor Wade who currently is the only source of help for the family. There is a pattern of the couple separating for short periods after a domestic violence incident followed by reconciliation a few days or weeks later. However, even the current separation is permanent there is a need to establish if the Stella can address the concerns about neglect.

Outline Plan

What we are worried about (Risk/Needs)	What needs to change (outcomes required)	What needs to happen (actions)	By when	By whom
Tony's violent and aggressive behaviour	Children not to be subject to, or witness, violence and aggression	Tony not to live in the family home and to engage fully in risk assessment	With immediate effect	Tony and Stella
		----- All contact between Tony & the children to be supervised_	With immediate effect	Social Worker
Stella's mental health issues	Children to receive predictable, consistent and stable parenting	Stella to engage with mental health services	Initial contact to be made by the end of the week	Stella
Tony's use of substances	Children need to be cared for by a parent who is not drug affected	Tony to refer himself to Substance Misuse Services for assessment and treatment	Initial contact to be made by the end of the week	Tony

Indicate where there are current concerns that services may be required or the child may be suffering or likely to suffer significant harm

	Neglect	Emotional abuse	Physical abuse	Sexual abuse	None apply
Concerns	Y	Y	Y		