

Young Person Friendly Social Work Report for Initial Child Protection Conference

Young Person: Jermaine Johnson/Wade

Social Worker:

Date:

A child protection conference is a meeting that will be held about you if your social worker, or any other person working with you, think you are being hurt by the people caring for you or are not being looked after and protected properly.

The law says that Brighton & Hove Council have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children within their area who are in need. You have a right to be safe and protected from abuse or neglect.

You have a right to have all your basic care needs met, such as food, housing, education, health care and protection from harm.

What we are worried about

We are concerned that you may be at risk of being physically harmed by your dad. Jacky had a bruise on her body two weeks ago which a doctor has said is unlikely to have been caused accidentally. You have said that your dad hits you and we think sometimes your mum is not able to protect you and your sisters from him because he can be violent to her too. We are also concerned about how you feel if you are not safe in your own home.

We are concerned that some of your basic needs, such as for food, warmth and clean clothes are not being met often enough by your mum and dad and that this makes you unhappy.

We are aware that your mum is concerned that your dad (in her words) "wastes money on drugs".

We are concerned that the problems in your family make it harder for you go to school and may contribute to some of the difficulties you have there when you do go.

We are concerned that your mum can get very unhappy and that that you may be given more responsibility in looking after your sisters and your mum than you should be given your age.

We think you are a caring young person who is very loyal to his family and wants the best for everyone. You and your sisters seem to get on well together. We have been told by your school that you can do well and could do even better if we can all help you improve your attendance.

What you are worried about

You have said that you understand why the Conference is happening but you feel very nervous about the idea of attending. You said you are worried about what might happen as a result of the Conference and fear that you and your sisters could be taken away from your parents and put "in care"

You said you are concerned about your mum and think that she needs help in looking after you. You wonder how she would cope if you were not there.

You agree with the school that you have experienced some bullying. You would like that to stop and that would help you feel more confident about attending. You have said that you would like to see the school counsellor to talk about this and any other worries you might have

What professionals think needs to change to make sure you are safe, and how this could happen.

We need to know that you are not being hit and do not witness other members of your family being hit and that you are not exposed to lots of shouting and arguing. At the moment your dad is not living with you and you see him for supervised contact. We need to work with your dad to see if he can make changes so that it is safe for him to live with you and your family again.

We need to be confident that each day of the week you have enough food to eat, clean clothes to wear and that your home is heated when the weather is cold. We need to work with your mum on what she needs to be able to ensure these things happen in the long term.

We need to help you improve your school attendance so that you can get the most out of your education. We need to make sure that you are not being bullied at school.

Your mum needs to accept help so that she can learn how to manage her unhappiness so that she can care for you and your sisters rather than you having to do it. At the moment your Gran is doing a lot of the caring and you say you have a good relationship with her.

We will work with you and other members of your family to see what is causing the problems and how we can try to solve them.

What you think needs to change to make sure you are safe. And what support you think is needed for you and your family.

You have said you would like the arguments between your mum and dad to stop and for them to get on better. You are not sure how that could come about.

You think your mum needs help if she is going to be able to look after you and your sisters. Your Gran is providing a lot of help at the moment and you think this is a good thing. You hope she can continue to be involved because things improve for you and your sisters when she is. You also think your mum might need someone to speak to in private about her worries.

You recognise that the school are concerned about your attendance. You have said you will co-operate with your mum and your gran about going to school if you know your mum is getting help. Since Gran came to stay you have attended every day at school and this is a very positive development. You think it might be helpful if you saw the school counsellor for a while about the bullying and what has happened in your family recently.

You don't like being bullied and this needs to change if you are to feel more confident about being there.