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**Case details**

**Family:**

**Mother – Josie**

**Child/subject – Tommy aged 3**

**Half sibling- Maisie aged 8**

**Paternal grandmother to Maisie – Shirley**

**Father to Maisie – Scott**

**Maternal grandparents to Maisie and Tommy – Frank and Margaret**

**Maternal aunt – Leanne**

**Father to Tommy – N/K**

An anonymous referral is made to the duty team raising concerns for the welfare of Tommy, aged three, and his mother Josie, 25. The anonymous referrer reported intense arguments which sounded violent, coming from the home, hearing adults shouting and a child crying. Josie was already known to the local authority, having been in care herself from age 13 due to her mother’s mental illness and ongoing concerns around the neglect of her and her sister. She had also had her first child, Maisie now aged eight, removed and placed with a family member (Paternal grandmother) under a special guardianship order (SGO). One of the primary concerns was substance misuse (excessive Cannabis use) and a chaotic lifestyle

Enquiries made through the multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH) found that Josie had a new partner Karl who, during the course of the enquiry, was cautioned for cannabis possession just down the road from Josie’s home.

Tommy had attended two nurseries in the first three months. The first nursery said he found playing with other children challenging, grabbing toys and hitting out, and appeared unfamiliar with basic instructions and sentences.

Nursery do report however that Tommy is always clean and well-presented and that it is clear that Josie loves Tommy as she is seen to provide emotional warmth. Tommy and his mum have been observed having a cuddle and good interaction has been seen.

The Health Visitor has undertaken Tommy’s 3 year developmental assessment which was unremarkable. He is meeting milestones and his health needs are met by his mum. The home is reported to be cluttered and at the time of the visit the curtains were closed. The Health Visitor did note that Josie seemed quite low in mood and was quite isolated at her home visit.

The anonymous referrer states the arguments are regular occurrence in the home. Neighbours were too intimidated by the adults accessing the home to report incidents to police.

A referral is progressed and a Strategy meeting is held. Police note that the new partner, Karl has a history of domestic abuse with previous partners and he has been known to MARAC. An unannounced visit is agreed.

Social Workers visit the home and Josie is very distressed and reluctant to share information. Tommy is seen not to react to his mum’s distress until Social workers are leaving the house and Tommy becomes boisterous and tries to grab his mum’s attention and becomes aggressive toward her.

Social Workers establish that Josie is vulnerable and reluctant to share information. She denies there have been any arguments in the home though admits her partner uses Cannabis and is a frequent visitor along with some of his friends. It is clear that mum has few support networks and is isolated.

A Child Protection Conference is agreed for Tommy.