

DSCB Good Practice Briefings P & A

**BACKGROUND**

**An Early Help assessment was completed following a referral from Child A (9) and P’s (8) mother. She was struggling to manage A’s behaviour which was impacting on P. The family had previously had Early Help support which had ended due to house moves.**

**OUR ASSESSMENT IDENTIFIED**

Factors impacting on family functioning including parents negative views of A and P, ineffective behaviour management strategies, parents poor mental health, communication issues within the family and conflict between both birth parents since separation. Mother had significant debt

**WHAT WE DID**

We spent time getting to know the family listening to each of them and how they felt. The children told us their worries which were then sensitively shared with the parents. Outcomes were identified and a SMART plan to achieve them was regularly reviewed at TAC meetings.

WHAT WORKED WELL

 Assessment sessions were organised to fit in with the parents which helped to build relationships. Purposeful, outcome focused direct work enabled the family to make positive changes in their behaviour. Parents benefitted from research which helped to reinforce positive parenting.

**NEXT STEPS**

**The case is now closed to Early Help but good communication with the schools enabled safe step down to Universal services. The mother is accessing counselling services and intends to attend MIND. The children will continue to have positive contact**

**OUTCOMES**

Both children have a positive relationship with each other and their parents. The family have learned to praise positive behaviour. Mum has addressed her mental health thus her parenting has improved. Conflict between birth parents has reduced.

**CHALLENGES**

Delay in allocation of the assessment led to initial drift. It was hard for parents to understand their behaviour was impacting negatively on the children but soon recognised adult arguments and negativity were harmful. Contact arrangements were ironed out and P moved to live with her father.

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