

## Case Study 1: Project worker at an alcohol service

### **Identify who is at risk**

- All of the children
- Marcia
- Her partner (different risks to the rest of the family)

### **Identify who is most at risk**

- The unborn child
- Marcia
- The other children
- Her partner

### **What questions would you want to ask?**

- Would want to explore drinking history, its timeline and developmental history
- When did the drinking become a problem?
- Why were you taken into care?
- How long were you in/have you been in this relationship?
- For how long was your partner drinking?
- Is your partner the father of all the children?
- Explore further his drinking and domestic violence
- What is Marcia's experience of the domestic violence
- Is Tom aggressive towards Marcia?
- For how long has he been aggressive?
- What does Marcia want from the treatment?
- Need to unpack and understand her history
- Why did she move away?
- What does 'fresh start' mean to her?
- When was the social services referral made?
- What is the involvement of social services and other services?
- What support networks does she have?

### **How do you support each individual person?**

- Social services, health visitor, antenatal, midwife, teacher, harm minimisation, floating support
- Parenting support, choices, options around alcohol
- Therapeutic relationship, children and domestic abuse
- Trust building

### **What actions might you take?**

- Risk assessment for domestic abuse and mental health
- Harm minimisation
- Referral to MARAC and DV services to discover the impact of alcohol use of day to day life, e.g. driving etc.
- Look at which services have been used before and are currently involved

- Explore Marcia's experiences and fears about social services- repackage as positive support from social services- what she can *get* rather than lose
- Detox etc
- Provide factual information for the client
- Explore past experiences with police- how this has impacted on her ability to access services and build trust
- Assess parenting skills (awareness and normalising)

**Who might you contact or refer to for support?**

## Case Study 2: Family Support Worker

### **Identify who is at risk**

- Sue
- Jane
- Kai

### **Identify who is most at risk**

- Kai
- Sue

### **What questions would you want to ask?**

Questions to Sue, which would require the provision of a safe and confidential environment

- Why have you stopped coming?
- Has anything changed?
- You seem anxious, are you okay?
- Are you getting any other support?
- Is there a way that we could help?
- Are you happy to have Ian in the group?
- Has Ian been violent towards you recently/in the past?
- Would you like to meet for coffee?
- What is the relationship between Jane and her dad like?
- Would do a mapping exercise if suitable
- Would give her a leaflet or information concerning domestic violence

### **How do you support each individual person?**

Sue:

- Ask her how she wants to be supported
- What does she feel the risks are?
- Complete a risk assessment
- Explain confidentiality and safeguarding children
- Discover where Kai was when the violence took place
- Provide the option of a specialist domestic violence project

Kai:

- Assessing impact on him
- Safety planning with him
- May need to make a child protection referral

### **What actions might you take?**

### **Who might you contact or refer to for support?**

## Case Study 3: Support Worker at a Domestic Violence Project

### **Identify who is at risk**

- Mende
- Her children

### **Identify who is most at risk**

Mende:

- Risk of overdose
- Isolation- risk of returning to the perpetrator
- Alcohol withdrawal
- Risk of being deported and legal issues
- Lack of options
- Accessing services – English language barriers
- Risk of losing her children to the perpetrator
- Risk of eviction from the refuge
- Stigmatisation by other residents

Children:

- At risk if they go to the perpetrator
- At risk because of Mende's alcohol use- she may not be supervising them
- Seeing and experiencing domestic violence and substance misuse
- Safeguarding issues such as the storage of medication
- Neglect, emotional and physical abuse

### **What questions would you want to ask?**

- What do you want to happen?
- Are there any culturally specific services they would like to be referred to?
- What is she using?
- How is she coping?
- Where does she store medication/alcohol?
- How often does she use medication/alcohol?
- What support would she like to receive around drugs and alcohol?
- Is a referral to drug and alcohol agencies required?
- What is the emotional risk factor, e.g. of suicide?
- Does she need to detox?
- Does she need financial support for children?
- What external family/friends support does she have?
- What support does she need for the children?
- Are Social Services involved or needed?
- Does there need to be a risk assessment for the safeguarding of the children?
- What about domestic violence and domestic misuse adult and children services, play therapy?
- Are there any mental health issues?
- Is there a need for an interpreter?

- Does her GP know about her alcohol/medication use?
- Is there a need for a solicitor?
- Is the prescription for medication hers?
- What have the children witnessed?
- What impact does she consider the domestic violence and substance misuse is having on her children?
- Do the children need to go to a new school?
- Do the 7- and 3- year olds need 1:1 support?
- What about parent-child bonding sessions and parenting support?

### **How do you support each individual person?**

Children:

- May need a referral for a new school
- Do Special Educational Needs Coordinators need to be informed?
- May need children's workers
- Play therapists or therapeutic support
- Do Child and Adult Mental Health Services need to be informed?
- Social Services and CP offices support, maybe for nurture groups
- Contact?
- Safety planning with children

Mende:

- Legal and immigration advice
- Substance misuse referral
- Housing advice
- Parenting help
- Social Services

### **What actions might you take?**

### **Who might you contact or refer to for support?**