

GCP2 CASE STUDY 11

Safeguarding Adolescents Team

Background

A Social Worker completed a GCP2 with a family which was made up of mum, dad and their three children aged 7, 16 and 18 years old. Mum has learning difficulties and sadly one of their children died in 2017, causing dad to drink heavily. The family have been known to children's services for over 20 years and the children have been on repeated child protection plans for neglect. The current child protection plan commenced in March 2021 as a result of disclosures made by the 16 year old child. There were concerns about the children's physical presentation including the youngest child telling school staff he is always hungry, weight loss after school holidays and falling asleep in school.

How was the GCP2 completed?

The GCP2 was completed separately with the parents, and also the 16 year old. The Social Worker explained to both the parents and the 16 year old that the GCP2 would help them to better understand what life is like within the family. The process involved 4 visits to the home and 2 to the educational settings where the children attended. The Social Worker shared the GCP2 Parents Guide, GCP2 Tool and Score Sheet with the parents.

The Social Worker went through each area of the GCP2 with the parents and had some very insightful discussions as well as collecting the necessary evidence. The Social Worker reported that dad was more talkative than he had ever been before, and that he appreciated being listened to. For example, the Social Worker was able to see that the family made a big effort with offering quality food,

that dad was a chef and cooked from scratch all the time, but that the youngest child refused a lot of food, therefore reporting he was hungry. So the fact that this tool evidenced and acknowledged this, was well received.

As they completed the GCP2, the parents seemed to understand why different items scored different grades, as the Social Worker demonstrated the evidence for each item. Although the parents and Social Worker initially disagreed with the grades for some items, after discussing this, a shared view was reached. This is due to how specific, descriptive and evidence based each item is within the tool.

After the GCP2 was completed with the parents, the 16 year old also went through the process of using the tool. The young person enjoyed the process and again felt listened to by the Social Worker. It was interesting to see the grades the young person gave, compared to their parents, as the young person scored things more favourably. It appeared to the Social Worker that this indicated how the young person had normalised the care they received. It was helpful for the Social Worker to then explore this further with the young person based on the evidence that had been gathered.

The Social Worker believes that although it is too early to know what impact GCP2 has had, the GCP2 has been helpful to work more collaboratively with parents. By being so specific about what needs to change, it is also believed that unlike previous interventions, the parents now have a better understanding of what needs to improve and how this can be achieved.

The GCP2 will be reviewed before the next Core Group meeting to see what progress has been made.