

Family Safeguarding Team- 'A way out of the darkness'

Background

This case study relates to a family of 5 children (aged between 1-13 years old) living with mum.

Children's Services have previously supported the family under Child in Need and Child Protection Plans due to issues arising from long-term neglect of the children. Often, the children smelled of urine and their attendance was poor. The state of the home was of concern described as having a constant smell of urine with the rooms being cluttered and untidy. There were also concerns about the children being historically exposed to domestic abuse perpetrated by their father.

Mum was in foster care but does not recall much about the reasons why. Mum recalls experiencing neglect as a child.

In January 2021 an assessment was carried out after concerns were raised about the cleanliness, clutter and safety in the family home.

Using GCP2

A GCP2 was completed with mum in June 2021 and this provided a clear indication of both mum's parenting strengths, but also what changes were needed to improve the children's quality of care. An action plan was developed with mum and the GCP2 was repeated again in November 2021.

The Outcome

When GCP2 was repeated in November, this demonstrated the progress mum had made with making improvements to the home environment in particular. Consequently the children were stepped down to a Child in Need Plan.

The photos on the next pages, show the positive progress mum has made with the help of the GCP2. Mum acknowledges she still has more to do, but from looking at the photos, it is clear to see what kind of a difference these changes have made to the health and wellbeing of all the family members.

Feedback from the mum-

"The most important things I have learnt are its ok to let the children play but also keep an eye on if things are messy (e.g. toys) rather than messy hygiene. Little jobs often. At the start of this intervention I was really worried about probably that I may end up losing my children and being judged for the home conditions. I used to negatively label myself but now I realise I am capable of anything and a good mum."

How has the Family safeguarding intervention program (including GCP2) improved your self-esteem and confidence as a parent? ***"I think it literally gave me the kick up at the back side I needed! Take myself to my full potential."***

I looked at the bigger the picture and I knew it wasn't acceptable the way we were living. Just made me believe in myself and just see no matter how life gets, there's a way out of the darkness."

The Kitchen- Before



The Kitchen – Before



The Lounge- Before



Children's Bedroom- Before



The Kitchen- After



The Children's Bedroom- After

