

IN THE COVENTRY FAMILY COURT
IN THE MATTER OF THE CHILDREN ACT 1989
AND IN THE MATTER OF ([REDACTED])

Case No:

BETWEEN

Coventry City Council

Applicant

and

Miss [REDACTED]

First Respondent

and

Mr [REDACTED]

Second Respondent

and

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED].
(Acting through their Guardian)

Third and Fourth Respondents

CARE PLAN

In Respect of [REDACTED]

Prepared for Hearing on 1st, 3rd and 4th February 2021

Section 1: Overall Aim

- 1.1 The aim of this plan is to ensure that Child A lives in a safe, secure and stable environment where his emotional needs, as well as his other basic care needs are met and prioritised.

The Local Authority has explored the option of Child A remaining with his birth parents. Child A's Mother, during proceedings have accepted that due to her own issues, she is not able to care for Child A and older sibling although she seeks continuous contact.

Child A was made subject to Powers of Police Protection on the 10th April 2020 due to concerns of neglectful parenting, extremely poor home conditions, and being exposed to substance misuse by mother and unknown persons who were frequenting the home. There were also concerns that Mother was failing to adhere to government restrictions in line with COVID-19 by having various people in her property for a party.

Child A and his sibling were removed from their mother's care under the Powers of Police Protection, and then taken to their paternal great grandmother's home, where their father resides. An Interim Care Order was made for supervision and support to be provided to Father whilst Child A and older sibling were in his care; this included FDAC intervention with both parents due to their drug history and while outstanding assessments were being completed

During Father's extended intervention with FDAC, Father was tested positive for cocaine on 2 occasions and cannabis on 3 occasions.

Therefore, the Local Authority has assessed Child A's Paternal Grandmother and recommends that Child A and his sibling is placed with her, subject to a Care Order for 12 months

A Connected Person's Assessment of maternal grandmother and maternal great aunt and Uncle and has been positive as Connected Persons Foster

Carers for Child A and his sibling.

The Local Authority would invite the Court to make a Care Order in respect of Child A to live with Paternal Grandmother and providing there are no difficulties arising within 12 months and with the proposed plan of Father moving out of the property that the Local Authority apply to discharge the Care Order in favour of a Special Guardianship Order to Paternal Grandmother. This will also include Father to leave the family home. This will enable Child A to remain in their placement with Paternal Grandmother while the Local Authority share Parental Responsibility to enable them to make the necessary decisions in respect of Child A's care and contact arrangements.

Section 2: Child's Needs Including Contact

2.1 *The impact on the child concerned of any harm they have suffered (or were likely to have suffered);*

Child A and his sibling were removed from the care of their mother, Mother following police attending the home due to mother breaking lock down restriction in place due to COVID-19. Following officers' entry to the home, officers had concerns about adults in the home drinking and using substances, very poor home conditions and neglectful parenting of Child A and his older sibling.

Police officers had shared that the home was in an extremely poor state, and this included black mould in the fridge, drug paraphernalia on the floors and kitchen sides, unknown white powder on the children's toy kitchen, mould on the children's bed bases and what appeared to be excrement on floors and walls. There was no appropriate bedding observed for the children, and Child A and his sibling were described as dirty, with unclean clothing and believed to have excrement in their hair.

Police officers described Child A as vacant and were concerned that he may have been deaf due to the lack of response from him when officers attempted to interact with him. However, Child A's hearing has not been noted as a concern, since he has been in the care of father and paternal great grandmother. It is recorded that Child A had appeared happy and excited when he was taken to his paternal great grandmother by officers, following Police Protection.

There were initially significant concerns regarding development although there has been noted by the medical that there has been improvement. And that Child A's MRI scan of his brain was entirely normal. Since Child A has been in the care of his father and paternal great grandmother, Child A's development has progressed. Paternal Grandmother has shared that Child A and his sibling were very hungry when they came to the family home.

It is believed that the children were exposed to significant harm in their mother's care, which came to light following a police call out to the family home.

2.2 *The Child's identified needs (both current and future), including needs arising from the impact identified in paragraph 2.1 above, race, culture, religion or language, special education, health or disability;*

Child A is a 2-year-old dual heritage of Black Caribbean and White British. The family do not practice any religion but celebrate traditional festivals; such as Christmas and Easter.

Child A is Taking iron medication and is on a waiting list for an Audiology assessment Child A is Diagnosed with Asthma and Eczema and has no speech at the moment.

Child A will require a safe and nurturing environment, whereby his needs are met. Should any health or developmental needs become apparent, these will need to be met effectively by Paternal Grandmother for Child A.

Child A would need continuous support around his development delay. The Community paediatricians are assessing Child A, his next appointment is scheduled for February 2021. The Health visitor will complete SEND referral to support Child A at home.

Child A attends [REDACTED] Nursery who has arranged a Speech and Language assessment for Child A. Child A will require appropriate guidance and stimulation in line with his developmental age and requirements.

2.3 *The extent to which the wishes and views of the child have been obtained and acted upon; and*

Child A is not able to express his views verbally however through observation he appears settled and content in the care of father and paternal great grandmother. However, Child A is only two years of age and is unable to understand the level of professional concern around his and his sibling. It can be assumed that Child A would wish for a secure and loving permanent home, where he could grow up with his birth family, in a safe clean home, free from substance misuse and have all his care needs met. Child A has lived full time in the care of his mother since his birth and has had to adjust living with his paternal great grandmother and father. Child A will be represented throughout these care proceedings by her Court appointed Children's Guardian.

2.4 *The reasons for supporting this or explanations of why wishes/views have not been given absolute precedence;*

Child A needs to be protected from harm. Child A is a two year old child, who is felt to be very vulnerable due to his age and had been exposed to significant harm.

The plan is for Child A to be in the care of her paternal great grandmother, where his needs will be consistently met in a safe and appropriate environment. The living conditions, and concerns of Child A's presentation, which have been described by response officers, would cause significant concerns regarding Child A's safety if he was returned to the care of his mother. Likewise, due to

Fathers recent drug test results causes concerns that he has used illicit substances whilst they have been in his care.

2.5 ***Summary of how those needs might be met;***

The Local Authority is seeking a Care Order for Paternal Grandmother in respect of Child A to ensure that his needs are met appropriately and consistently in an environment that is safe and nurturing. Father will be expected to eventually leave the family address. Paternal Grandmother is expected to meet Child A's basic care needs, including emotional warmth, safety, routine and structure. Paternal Grandmother will be expected to work in conjunction with the Local Authority, in the best interest of Child A. Child A's health needs will be monitored by his paternal great grandmother and will need to be reviewed by attending Child A's GP.

2.6 ***Contact arrangements for, and purpose of, contact in meeting the child's needs (specifying contact relationship, e.g. parent, step-parent other family member, former carer, friend, siblings, including those looked after who may have a separate placement); any proposals to restrict or terminate contact (now or in future)***

The Local Authority proposes that Child A will have supervised contact with Mother and Father.

Mother

The Local Authority would recommend for contact between Mother and the children to take place a minimum of once every 2 weeks supervised by maternal grandmother.

Father

Once Father has left the family home the Local Authority would recommend for contact between Father and the children to take place a minimum of once every 2 weeks supervised by paternal great grandmother.

Sibling contact

Child A will be with his sister [REDACTED] with their care giver, therefore there will be no requirement for additional sibling contact between the two of them.

Child A has a newborn younger half sibling that will require for him to have contact.

The Local authority would recommend for contact between Child A and younger half sibling to take place at least twice a month supervised by paternal great grandmother.

Section 3: Views of Others

3.1 ***The extent to which the wishes and views of the child's parents and anyone else with a sufficient interest in the child (including representatives of other agencies, current and former carers) have been obtained and acted upon;***

Mother

Mother has recognised that the home conditions were not safe or appropriate for the children. Mother has expressed that she feels she has been struggling with anxiety and depression and feels that she has been vulnerable to exploitation from members of the community. Mother has accepted full responsibility to the police regarding neglectful parenting of the children.

Mother has shared that she misses the children and desires for them to be returned back into her care but recognises that she is not currently able to have them in her care. Mother states that she disapproves the Local Authority recommending the children to be placed in the care of paternal great grandmother while Father remains living with the children.

In the Family Group Conference, it appeared that all parties agreed for Paternal Grandmother to be the first appointed caregiver if Father was no longer able to care for the children due to the children already living with parental great grandmother. Mother wishes for the children to be placed in maternal

grandmother's care, as she feels that maternal grandmother will be able to meet the care and safety needs of the children in a more secure environment.

Father

Father has stated that he disagrees that the children should be placed in the care of his grandmother or any alternative family member. This is because Father has stated that he is adamant that the positive test results that came back positive for cocaine was inaccurate and that he has never touched cocaine at all whilst the children have been in his care. Father expresses that since the children have been in his care the children's needs are being met and they are thriving very well in all areas of their development since they have been living with him and great grandmother. Father stated that despite what the drug results may say, the children have not been impacted by his parenting and care for his children.

Paternal Great Grandmother

Paternal Grandmother would want to put herself forward to be the main carer for Child A and her sibling if Father is deemed not suitable for caring for them. Paternal Grandmother has stated in her connected persons assessment that if upon the children being placed in her care, Father would have to leave the family home. Paternal Grandmother has suggested that the children will always be safe and supervised while Father is within the home.

Paternal Grandmother understands that Father cannot remain in the home in the long term if the children remain in her care.

Maternal Grandmother

Maternal Grandmother wants to put herself forward as the main carer for Child A and older sibling [REDACTED]. Maternal Grandmother said that she believes that she can afford the right care and safety for the children where there is no one living in her household that is misusing illicit substances.

3.2 *The reasons for supporting them or explanations of why wishes / views have been given absolute precedence*

Paternal Grandmother needs to show her ability to provide appropriate care to Child A to ensure his emotional needs, educational needs and health needs are consistently met.

Section 4: Placement Details and Timetable

4.1 *Proposed placement – type and details (or details of alternative placements);*

Child A has been living with Paternal great grandmother and father for a period of six months. The Local Authority proposes that Child A continues to reside in paternal great grandmother's home in her care.

4.2 *Time that is likely to elapse before proposed placement is made;*

Child A was placed in his father's care under the auspices of Powers of Police Protection. Child A had been in the care of his father, at the home of paternal great grandmother following the end of police powers as part of a family arrangement. Child A is currently subject to an Interim Care Order. In this last period, Child A has been transitioned into the care of Paternal Grandmother, which began on 18th November 2020.

4.3 *Likely duration of placement (or other placement);*

Child A will remain in Paternal Grandmother 's care under a Care Order for 12 months before a Special Guardianship Order is made, ensuring that Father at some point leaves the home.

4.4 ***The way in which the plan for the child's upbringing will meet those current and future needs identified in paragraph 2.2 above;***

In the care of Paternal Grandmother, Child A will be given appropriate support and intervention should it be deemed necessary or required.

4.5 ***Arrangements for health care (including consent to examination and treatment);***

Child A is registered with a GP which is relatively near to paternal grandmother's address. Child A would also need to be registered with the local Dentist. Mother and Father should be informed of Child A's health updates by Paternal Grandmother, with the support of the Local Authority.

4.6 ***Arrangements for education (including any pre-school day care / activity);***

Child A attends ██████████ Nursery. Paternal Grandmother will be responsible for ensuring Child A is able to attend nursery. In addition, Child A will need to be provided with appropriate stimulation, such as opportunities to play, learn and develop.

4.7 ***Arrangements for reunification (often known as 'rehabilitation') (see also 4.8);***

The plan at this stage is for Child A to be placed in the care of Paternal Grandmother under a Care Order for 12 months in favour of a Special Guardianship Order to Paternal Grandmother's.

4.8 ***Other services to be provided to the child;***

Child A will be supported by his allocated social worker, as well as support and reassurance by paternal great grandmother and wider family network.

4.9 ***Other services to be provided to parents and other family members;***

The Social Worker will be available where appropriate to give advice and assistance to the family if requested.

4.10 ***Details of proposed support services in placement for the carers;***

If Care Order is granted, Paternal Grandmother will be offered support. This support is set out in a Placement Care Plan.

4.11 ***Specific details of the parents' role in day to day arrangements.***

Mother and Father will not be responsible for the day to day care tasks in relation to Child A. However, it is expected that they attend contact with Child A and provide good enough parenting during family time.

Section 5: Management and Support by Local Authority

5.1 ***Who is to be responsible for implementing the overall plan;***

The allocated social worker will be responsible for implementing the plan and the Team Manager will oversee the plan.

5.2 ***Who is to be responsible for implementing specific tasks within the plan; (list all persons identified);***

The allocated Social Worker will be responsible for ensuring some specific tasks within the plan are undertaken, under the supervision of the Team Manager.

5.3 ***Name of Independent Reviewing Officer;***

██████████

5.4 ***Dates of review; (include dates of known care conferences etc);***

A Looked After Child Review has been scheduled for December 2020, however Child A will not be Looked After Child once proceedings have concluded. Once the court order has been made, Child A will remain open on a Looked After Care Plan

5.5 ***Contingency Plans if placement breaks down or if preferred placement is not available;***

Should Child A be deemed unable to remain in the care of paternal great grandmother, maternal grandmother has been assessed and would recommend that Child A and his sibling be placed with her, subject to a Care Order.

Maternal great aunt and uncle has also been assessed and eligible to care for Child A and his older sibling.

5.6 ***Arrangements for input by parents, the child and others into the ongoing decision-making process;***

Mother and Father will be invited to participate in relevant meetings where they will have an opportunity to make contributions in relation to Child A's care planning.

5.7 ***Arrangements for notifying the responsible authority of disagreements about the implementation of the care plan or making representations or complaints.***

Mother and Father will be able to communicate any disagreements to the allocated Social Worker and Team Manager in the first instance. They will also be able to formalise any disagreements through the Coventry City Council's complaints procedure. They will also be legally represented in the Proceedings.

This Care Plan has been prepared by: -

Signed [REDACTED] Dated23/11/2020.....
(Allocated Social Worker)

Full Name: [REDACTED]

Position: Social Worker

Work Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone No: [REDACTED]

Signed:

[REDACTED]

Full Name: [REDACTED]

Position: Operational Lead

Date: 18-12-2020

Work Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone No: [REDACTED]