

Coventry City Council
Area Team - South (S)

Tel:
Fax:



Initial Child Protection Conference Report

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Initial Child Protection Conference Report

Consolidated Section for: Child A, Child B, Child C

Family Composition

Child A

A Confidential Address has resulted in this data being hidden.

Child B

A Confidential Address has resulted in this data being hidden.

Child C

A Confidential Address has resulted in this data being hidden.

GP & Other Significant Professionals

Child A, Child B, Child C

Name	Agency	Address	Working With? (Name of child/adult)
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CP Initial Conference Dates

Date Referral Received	Child A, Child B, Child C 08-Oct-2020
CP Initial Conference Planned Date	Child A, Child B, Child C 28-Oct-2020
CP Initial Conference Due Date	Child A, Child B, Child C 30-Oct-2020
CP Initial Conference Actual Date	Child A, Child B, Child C
CP Initial Conference Report Completed	Child A, Child B, Child C 26-Oct-2020

Reason(s) for Initial Child Protection Conference

Consolidated Section for: Child A, Child B, Child C

Reason(s) for Initial Child Protection Conference, Nature of current concerns and risks and Outcome of S47 Enquiry	Child A, Child B, Child C There has been a verbal altercation between Child A's Father and Mother which resulted in Child A's Father pushing Mother resulting in bruising marks to her face. A third party contacted the police. The children were present during this altercation, however, were reported to be sleeping at the time. There was a previous assessment completed in July 2019 following concerns around Mother and Child A's Father's relationship following Child C sharing concerns in school around Mother having bruises and keeps having bruises and made reference to this being from Child A's Father. It was apparent during the strategy meeting that Child A's Father has an offending history in relation to domestic abuse between his ex partner along side pending prosecutions in relation to drugs. There are concerns that these risks are likely to place the children at risk of significant harm without an appropriate plan of support.
Previous concerns and involvements	Child A, Child B, Child C Previous Children's Services Involvement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 27.02.2012 - Initial Assessment - Received an anonymous referral in respect of Mother's poor parenting. Initial Assessment was completed which did not substantiate the concerns raised.

- 14/05/2014 - There is a DV screening on the system where Child A's Father had gone to his mother's home, ██████████, he was refused access, so he kicked out a panel to the front door in order to gain access. He entered the property and removed the child from the address. A little later he has returned to the address with the child and left with his mum.
- 16.06.2014 - Mother attended the home of Child C's Father and a verbal altercation has taken place between the ex-mother-in-law and son - no offences disclosed
- 18/07/2014 - Between 12 & 13 July a DV screening incident - breach of non-molestation order. Victim ██████████ has a non-molestation order in place preventing the suspect, Child A's Father, for contacting her in any way - family court Coventry issued 11th July 2014 - the order was breached as Child A's Father sent 8 text messages and has made two telephone calls.
- 30.04.2015 - DV notification - argument between mother and Child C's Father over mother going on Facebook, health visitor to offer support
- 22.06.2015 - DV notification - argument between mother and Child C's Father, to be followed up by health
- 22.06.2015 - DV notification - argument between mother and Child C's Father, to be followed up by health
- 24.10.2016 - Anonymous referral alleging mother That mother is at park everyday at all hours, that the children are left in car a lot, Child B has a lot of time off school and is not well nourished- Diverted for Early Help Support.
- 16.03.2017 - DV Notification Verbal argument. Advised accordingly. Mum sent letter requesting to contact MASH - no record she did this
- 11.05.2017 - Anonymous referral - concerns the children are not being looked after properly, poor presentation. Concerns that mum is getting involved with the wrong people and she drives dangerously with the children in the car - AMBER MASH and recommendation for a C& F assessment
- 17.05.2018 - DV incident between Mother and Child C's Father - issues over access - NFA
- 21/05/2019 - referral received from school due to Child C disclosing that her mother had been hurt and that she has bruises- children and families assessment completed- no further action.

Overview of Parental Capacity, Child's Developmental Needs and Family and Environmental Factors

Consolidated Section for: Child A, Child B, Child C

Social worker's summary of how any parental factors impact on the parent/carers capacities to respond appropriately to the child's needs. This should include consideration of how the family and environmental factors impact the parental capacities.

Child A, Child B, Child C

Basic Care:

There have not been any children's services concerns in relation to the basic care of the children. The children are always dressed appropriately in clean and age appropriate clothing. Mother has been observed to attend to the children's hygiene by regularly bathing the children. However, there are some concerns in relation to Mother's financial situation in which she has agreed has been a challenge for some time following confusion with universal credit. This has resulted in Mother positively reaching out for help from Child Cs' father to support with Child C. The problem here, is that if Mother continues to suffer financially it is likely to impact on meeting the children's basic needs including food, clothing and necessary items.

Ensuring Safety:

Mother has not contacted the police on any occasion in respect of her relationship with Child A's Father. Whilst this is positive, that there has only been one call out to the police, this was completed by a third party. It would appear that there is a lot of parental conflict and arguments that have occurred where the children have been present. Following a past assessment completed in July 2019, Child C raised concerns in respect of her mummy always having bruises and Child A's Father causing bruises. Whilst there was limited evidence to support this, it is apparent following the most recent referral that Mother and Child A's Father have a quite volatile relationship where arguments are easily fuelled. Child A is very small and could get caught up in the cross fire of these altercations.

Guidance and boundaries:

Mother has been observed with the children on several home visits and it appears that Mother manage the children's behaviour through rewards and taking away toys if necessary. Mother shows emotional warmth to the children and they have a good relationship with each other.

Stability

The children have lived with their mother throughout their lives. Mother is taking the appropriate steps with the housing department to get a new property that is spacious for the children.

Emotional warmth

Emotional warmth has been observed between Mother, Child C , Child B and Child A . Mother speaks positively about her children and it has been evident that they have a good relationship with each other.

Summary of the child/young person's health and development.

Child A, Child B, Child C

Health

The children are registered at ██████████ Medical Centre. There are no identified health

conditions for the children and their immunisations are up to date. Mother will access the relevant medical and health support as and when the children require this.

Education

Child C and Child B attends Saint Thomas More Catholic School.

Mother rang Wednesday to say that Child B had been up all night with a bad cough. This resulted in the children having to isolate. Mother refused to get the children a test which meant that the children had to follow the 14 day isolation period. Child B has only been in school for 13 out of a possible 32 days.

Child C's Father remains in close contact with the school in relation to Child

C. Child C's attendance last academic year 82%.

Child B's attendance last academic year 87%. Sporadic school attendance for Child B. A lot of lates.

Mother engages well with the school and has lots of support around improving the children's attendance.

School have advised that they will struggle to get hold of Mum at times.

Behavioural and emotional development.

The children are reported to be very well behaved and well mannered in school. Mother has reported no concerns in relation to the children's behaviour. Social care have observed the children during home visits and during direct work sessions as happy, talkative and polite. Mother shared that Child B is showing some signs of having a learning need. For example, scratching his head.

Identity

Child B white British and has contact with his maternal grandmother which contributes to shaping his identity. Child B is not currently having any contact with his father and or paternal family members. Child Bs' father does not have parental responsibility.

Child C is dual heritage and has contact with her father (Child C's Father) and paternal grandparents on a regular basis.

Child A is dual heritage and lives with his mother and father (Child A's Father) and has regular contact with paternal and maternal family members.

Family and Social Relationships

The family have close relationships with each other; Mother has a close relationship with her parents. Maternal Grandmother (maternal grandmother) will often visit the children and support Mother emotionally and practically. Child C and Child B have spoken positively about Maternal Grandmother and positive interactions have been observed between them.

Social Presentation

There have been no concerns regarding the children's presentation throughout this assessment. Mother has reported that Child B is small for his age including weight and height, although is reported to be eating well at home and school.

Self Care Skills

There are no concerns with the children's self care skills; they are age appropriate. Child A is fully reliant on his parents to meet his basic care needs.

The child / young person's home and community

Child A, Child B, Child C

Housing

The family live in a 2 bedroom flat. The flat has been observed to be clean, however, is overcrowded. Mother is currently awaiting a house move. Child C and Child B share a bedroom and Child A is currently sleeping in a cot in his parents bedroom.

Employment:

Child A's Father and Mother are currently receiving a joint universal credit claim and are not in employment.

Mother has reported that she would like to get into employment following enrolling Child A into nursery. Mother has reported that she would like to begin a career within the police force.

Child C's Father is currently attending university and works part time.

Family's Social Integration

There is a good family support network in place.

Community Resources

The children attend school which is out of area to where they are living. Mother has access to a car and will transport the children to and from school.

Views of Child/Young Person and carers/family

Consolidated Section for: Child A, Child B, Child C

Views of Child/Young Person of the situation and what needs to change

Child A, Child B, Child C

Child's Voice:

Child C was seen and spoken to alone at her fathers address on the 12th October 2020:

Child C was quite shy when I introduced myself and struggled to remember me from my last involvement in June 2019. I explained to Child C the reason for my visit and asked her to tell me what she feels is working well and going good at the moment. Child C shared that she enjoys playing with Child A. playing on the IPAD, Playing tag and playing with toys including her bike. Child C said she did not have anything to put in the house of worries today. I asked Child C if she

had a magic wand and could change one thing what would it be. Child C said to have everything from Smiths toys. Child C said that she would not need a bike or a scooter though but would wish for everything else.
 Child C said that she gets to watch television in her mums bedroom and she enjoys this. Child C said she gets to play on her scooter and trampoline at daddy's house. Child C said that she was happy for me to visit her in school.
 Child C did not report any concerns in respect of her home life at her fathers and or her mothers home.

Child B was seen and spoken to at his mothers address on the 12th October 2020:

I explained to Child B what my role is as a social worker and the reason why I have visited today- to check their safety and to make sure they are okay following an argument between Mother and Child A's Father. Child B described feeling good and was happy to share what he had been up to. Child B shared that he enjoys school especially English and continued to say that he was bad at Maths. Mother interrupted and said to him "you are not bad at Maths you are brilliant". Child B shared that he is happy for me to visit him in school.

Child C and Child B were spoken to in school on the 23rd October 2020:

Child C and Child B have spoken positively about their home life including their relationships with their mother and Child A. Child C and Child B do not appear to have an awareness of the arguments between Mother and Child A's Father and have not reported any concerns in respect of this.

Child A is two years old and his vocabulary is limited, however observations have been completed on the 12th and 15th October 2020:

During the visit I observed Mother washing Child A's hair in the bath. Child A was smiling and laughing as Mother was washing him and splashing the water.
 Positive interactions between Mother and her children have been observed.
 Child B and Child C have a close relationship with Child A.
 Child C and Child B sometimes wind each other up, however, have a close sibling relationship.

Child A, Child B, Child C

Views of Parent(s), main carers and significant family members and what needs to change

Mother's response to the safeguarding concerns:

Mother is willing to engage with Children's Services but is not in support of a child protection plan. Mother does not feel that the children are at risk of harm. Mother has discussed her future aspirations in terms of a career and does not want this to be impacted on in any way. Mother recognises that there are issues between her and Child A's Father's relationship and feels that the lock down period has caused arguments between them due to him going out regularly with friends. Mother is aware of Child A's Father's offending history and does not feel that Child A's Father poses a risk to her children. Mother has reported that she would always prioritise her children over her relationship.

Child A's Father's response to the safeguarding concerns:

Initially, Child A's Father was very angry and frustrated and felt that he will not be told that he cannot be at his home address. Child A's Father does not feel that the children are at any risk. Child A's Father has recently reported that he is willing to work with Children's Services. Child A's Father stated that he does not put his hands on Mother, but accepts that they do have verbal arguments. Child A's Father stated that Mother was pushing him out of the house and Child A's Father pushed her. Child A's Father stated that she threw a shoe at him as he was not arguing back with her. Child A's Father stated that he pushed Mother and she hit the wall and fell onto the highchair. Child A's Father left and phoned Mother to see if she was okay. Child A's Father admitted that he has used cocaine and cannabis but has now stopped using cocaine. Child A's Father stated that he is willing to work with children's services and engage in support around anger and drug misuse. Child A's Father stated that he is dealing with the loss of his granddad which has had a big impact on him, as well as the lockdown.

Child C's Father (Father to Child C):

Child C's Father has raised concerns around Child C seeing/hearing arguments. Child C's Father has advised that he will continue to offer support to Child C.
 Child C's Father raised his concerns around Child C's school attendance, however, did offer support to Mother to get her car fixed so that she is able to get the children to and from school. Child C's Father discussed the past domestic abuse between him and Mother and stated that he was 20/21 at the time and was young. Child C's Father describes his mother Nikki and Maternal Grandmother (maternal grandmother) as supportive factors for the family.

Please Record that you have offered the Advocacy Service to the Child or Young Person

Child A

Request For Advocacy (Completed)

Child B

Request For Advocacy (Completed)

Child C

Request For Advocacy (Completed)

Signs of Safety Assessment & Analysis

Consolidated Section for: Child A, Child B, Child C What is working well?

Child A, Child B, Child C

Paternal family have regular contact with Child C which appears to be going well
 Paternal family members spoke about the importance of Child C's education and the impact of domestic abuse

	<p>No outstanding health needs Presentation is good in school. Mother engages well with school. Mother has engaged with assessments in the past. Family support network identified for the family.</p>
What are we worried about?	<p>Child A, Child B, Child C</p> <p>Incident of domestic abuse between Mother and Child A's Father whilst the children were in the house. Previous concerns reported by Child C in respect of Mother having bruises that she reported were from Child A's Father. Long history of domestic abuse between Mother and Child C's Father. Concerns that Child A's Father' offending appears to be escalating. Concerns around school attendance and consistency. Concerns around Mother's' finances. Child A's Father's drug use and how this can provoke disagreements/conflict.</p>
What needs to happen?	<p>Child A, Child B, Child C</p> <p>Proceed to initial child protection conference to determine if the children need to be subject to a child protection plan.</p>
Analysis	
Danger Statement	<p>Child A, Child B, Child C</p> <p>Children Services are worried that domestic abuse between the mother and her partner Child A's Father has been reported by a third party. The concern is that this is not the first time that there has been reported violence.</p> <p>The children are at risk of being exposed to ongoing parental conflict are more likely to experience difficulties in their own emotional and behavioural development which can impact on how they form future relationships. They are much more likely to experience feelings of anxiety and worry which could develop to depression. A number of areas in their lives may be negatively impacted upon including their educational performances and achievements.</p> <p>We are also concerned that there may be wider risks to the children relating to Child A's Father' offending history.</p>
Safety Goal	<p>Child A, Child B, Child C</p> <p>For the children to be brought up in a violence free home and to feel safe at all times and not be exposed to violence For children not to be exposed to risky situations.</p>
Analysis	<p>Child A, Child B, Child C</p> <p>Children's Services are concerned that the children remain at risk of harm. Mother and Child A's Father's relationship appears to be very off and on and they have admitted to there being a lot of arguments in their relationship which appears to be greater due to the current lock down measures. This is likely to have a detrimental impact on the children witnessing the arguments and more recently witnessing Mother with bruising to her face. Child A's Father and Mother report that they want their relationship to improve so that they and continue with their relationship. I recommend an initial child protection conference takes place in order to explore whether the children need to be subject to a child protection plan.</p> <p>Initially there were significant concerns regarding the potential safety of the children, however, now these issues have been further explored and the family are willing to engage with Children's Services to improve the situation for the children, it is the view of the allocated social worker that the children may not require being subject to a child protection plan. This is mainly due to the fact that the children have not been subject to a child in need plan in the past and if the family are willing to engage in the necessary support services, a child protection plan may not be deemed necessary. However, a conference has been convened to ensure that a multi agency decision is made in order to support the family on either a child in need plan or a child protection plan.</p> <p>Since the Section 47 enquiry there have been some positives noted, for example, the children have been observed to be well presented and the home conditions are to a good standard. There has been food and necessary items observed within the home. In addition to this, the children's wishes and feelings indicate that they are happy and contented within their home environment and have spoken positively about their family members including Child A's Father.</p> <p>It is felt that a conference is required to gather professionals views and to determine the most appropriate plan to support the family and safeguard the children.</p>
What are the bottom lines?	<p>Child A, Child B, Child C</p> <p>The children are not to be exposed to any further arguments and conflict between Mother and Child A's Father.</p>
Proposed Plan	
Child A, Child B, Child C	

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Action or Task Required	Timescale	Person Responsible for	Desired Outcome Including the impact on the Child or Young Person	Is this a bottom line?
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		Completion and Their Role		These are non-negotiable changes what need to be made
Risk assessment to be completed in respect of Child A's Father.	To be completed by the 28th November 2020.	██████████ (social worker)	Understanding of Child A's Father background and potential risks in order to identify relevant support that he will require eg/ anger management support and or drug use support.	
Wishes and Feeling work to be completed with Child C and Child B.	Ongoing- Wishes and feelings work to be completed on a fortnightly basis.	██████████ (social worker)	The children to have the opportunity to share their wishes and feelings.	
Mother and Child A's Father to complete work around domestic abuse and the impact that this can have on children.	Referral to be made to children and family worker by 30th October 2020	██████████ (social worker)	Mother and Child A's Father to have an understanding of the impact of arguments and conflict on the children.	
Safety Plan to be reviewed and changed depending on Mother and Child A's Father's relationship status.	To be discussed with Mother and Child A's Father by the 2nd November 2020	██████████ (social worker) ██████████ (Mother) ██████████ (father to Child A) ██████████ (father to	A robust safety plan to ensure the children are protected and the family are supported appropriately.	Yes

If the plan doesn't progress what is the contingency plan?	Child A, Child B, Child C
	If the decision is made for a child in need plan- the family will be required to engage with the plan to prevent further escalation. If the decision is made for a child protection plan, the family will be required to engage with the plan and legal advice will be sought if no positive change is made.

Safety and Context Scale:	
Safety Scale: Given the danger and safety information, rate the situation on a scale of 0 – 10, where 0 = recurrence is certain, and 10 = sufficient safety for child to close case.	Child A, Child B, Child C
	5
Context Scale: Rate this case on a scale of 0 – 10 where 0 means this is the worse case of child abuse / neglect that the agency has seen, and 10 means this is not a situation where any action would be taken.	Child A, Child B, Child C
	4
Family's Scale:	
Safety Scale: Given the danger and safety information, rate the situation on a scale of 0 – 10, where 0 = recurrence is certain, and 10 = sufficient safety for child to close case.	Child A, Child B, Child C
	10
Context Scale: Rate this case on a scale of 0 – 10 where 0 means this is the worse case of child abuse / neglect that the agency has seen, and 10 means this is not a situation where any action would be taken.	Child A, Child B, Child C
	10
Participation	

Consolidated Section for: Child A, Child B, Child C

Record the date that the report will be shared with the child/young person*:	Child A, Child B, Child C
	26-Oct-2020
Record the date that the report will be	Child A, Child B, Child C

shared with the parent/carer(s)*:	26-Oct-2020
If the report will not be shared before the conference please state the reason why:	Child A, Child B, Child C

Management Oversight

Consolidated Section for: Child A, Child B, Child C

Manager comments and endorsement	Child A, Child B, Child C
	Mother and Child A's Father's relationship appears to be very off and on and they have admitted to there being a lot of arguments in their relationship. This is likely to have a detrimental impact on the children witnessing the arguments and more recently witnessing Mother with bruising to her face. Child A's Father and Mother report that they intend to continue their relationship and minimise the concerns raised by Children's Services. I recommend an initial child protection conference takes place for a multi-agency decision to be made.

Signatures

Consolidated Section for: Child A, Child B, Child C

Child A	
Name of Social Worker completing assessment	[REDACTED]
Signature:	
Child B	
Name of Social Worker completing assessment	[REDACTED]
Signature:	
Child C	
Name of Social Worker completing assessment	[REDACTED]
Signature:	
Child A	
Name of Manager	[REDACTED]
Signature:	
Child B	
Name of Manager	[REDACTED]
Signature:	
Child C	
Name of Manager	[REDACTED]
Signature:	

Recorded Feedback

The completed Initial Child Protection Conference Report should be discussed with the child/young person and their parents/carers.

Person	Discussed	If no, when	Given	If no, when	Agreed
Child A, 2 yrs 4 mths					