

Cheshire East Case Example used in training: Sarah and Louise

What are we worried about?	What is working well?	Next Steps
<p>Past Harm</p> <p>Louise is worried that during the 5 years that services have been working with mum that there's been no change over time. This work included services asking mum to do things like not having people round the house, to have better home conditions, not to be in damaging relationships, to make sure her little girl Sarah has everything she needs. Louise finds out about risky relationships after they've happened. Louise's Service Manager is worried how many people are and have been caring for Sarah.</p> <p>The first known Police call out during Sarah's life was while mum was pregnant with Sarah. This was a domestic between maternal grandmother and her partner. The Police noted the poor home conditions. June/July 2017 was the last Police call out when Sarah was thought to be alone at home. The worst Police information was in December 2016 as mum's new partner had been previously charged with arson and was wanted for drug dealing and violence (gang related). Mum stayed with him until February 2017.</p> <p>Sarah saw the ex-partner with the arson charge shouting at mum and punching doors. Louise says Sarah went withdrawn, wouldn't speak much and was clingy to mum when mum was in this relationship. A professional in the core group then saw on Facebook this partner using the head on one of Sarah's dolls as a finger puppet which mum filmed and Sarah was seen to be flinching at the puppet.</p> <p>Sarah and mum had to move out of their home to Chrissie's house as her ex-partner had threatened to burn the house down with them in it, which Sarah saw and</p>	<p>Louise says that when Child Protection started and there was a big core group mum seemed to be listening and working with the plan. She stopped contact with her partner who had arson convictions, uncluttered the house, attempted to have bedding, was decorating and engaging with Housing about her arrears. This lasted for about 2 months.</p> <p>Mum would say she makes sure there is clean bedding on Sarah's bed every day and when Louise visits there is either clean bedding on the bed or being washed.</p> <p>From June 2016 to November 2016, mum was taking Sarah to nursery for her 15 hours. There were regular visits by the health visitor whose good relationship with Sarah gave Louise a good relationship with Sarah. Sarah had age appropriate toys, up to date immunisations, was healthy (not off nursery ill), lively and chatty.</p> <p>On a good day (in 2016) Sarah would have been to nursery, in clean clothes, have a home cooked meal and a trip to the park or walk the dog, in a princess dress.</p> <p>Louise says the good things above are happening 5 days out of 7.</p> <p>Sarah also sees Chrissie and her family one day per week. Sarah likes being with Chrissie's two girls, dressing up, and watching Aristocats. She stayed there with her mum when mum needed to be out of the house to get away from her ex-partner. When Sarah was staying with Chrissie she talked about wanting to be back home so she could have mum to herself – this let Louise know there was a bond between the two of them.</p> <p>Sarah likes her mum doing her hair and mum has taught</p>	<p>Safety Goal 1</p> <p>Louise and her manager want Sarah to keep living with you because they can see how much she loves you, and when you are looking after her well, you do a good job.</p> <p>For them to know she will be cared for well all of the time they need to see you and at least 3 other agreed important grown-ups, known and trusted by Sarah, to come up with a plan that shows she will always be cared for by people who are able to watch her so she's safe playing and moving around the house.</p> <p>Her home will always be clean and free from clutter. Sarah will have a clean bed with bedding on, clean clothes every day for school and bathed every other day. They would see this plan working for 4 months.</p> <p>Safety Goal 2</p> <p>Louise and her manager want Sarah to be safe with all the adults that she has spending time with her. If you start new relationships you and the network will spend time making sure that people are good, kind and safe adults to have around you and Sarah before slowly bringing them into her life.</p> <p>Suggested Next Steps</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete the 3 columns with mum 2. Complete the 3 houses with Sarah. 3. Support mum to identify a network. 4. Complete Word & Pictures Explanation work with mum, to prepare for her and Sarah for the safety planning work.

<p>heard.</p> <p>Louise says Sarah is ignored when mum is in a relationship and this has created a funny relationship between them where Sarah 'bosses mum around'.</p> <p>Louise worries mum cannot keep the good changes going without support especially if she's in a relationship.</p> <p>Complicating Factors</p> <p>Sarah prefers to be with adults as she's so used to having them around the home all the time.</p> <p>There have been historical concerns about the home conditions including dog poo inside the house (mum has got rid of the dog now) and when Sarah was burnt with hair straighteners as a younger child.</p> <p>Mum was neglected as a child and has difficulty seeing having people round the house as a problem – she used to enjoy this as a child. She did have her 18 year old brother and his girlfriend move in to the home, and all their friends came round and he made no financial contribution to the household.</p> <p>Recently mum was caring for another baby which she took to hospital as he had a burn on his hand and bruise on his face. She and the baby's mum argue who caused the injuries and how the injuries were caused. Sarah's mum said she was the baby's mum at hospital, and Louise is not sure why she did this which worries her.</p> <p>Danger Statement 1</p> <p>Louise and her manager in Children's Social Care at Cheshire East are worried there have been lots of times that you have not been able to give Sarah all the things she needs to grow up well all the time. This has meant that Sarah has had some times when things have been</p>	<p>her how to do her own hair which took time, they enjoy lots of girly time together and Sarah appreciates this. She says she likes that her mum lets her do what she wants. She likes having a bedroom makeover which has happened 3 times in 12 months.</p> <p>Louise thinks mum "got it, understood the worries" when the worries were linked to her own childhood.</p> <p>Mum would say she does everything for Sarah; she's all she's got.</p> <p>A Family Support Worker is working with mum putting in routines, this started in August 2017.</p> <p>Mum has been motivated – her benefits have changed now Sarah is at school, and she's been looking at courses and jobs. Mum does want to have a nice house, she's often painting, she got rid of the naughty dog and wants to be house proud.</p> <p>There have been no more Police call outs to the home since August 2017.</p>	
--	--	--

bad for her, like when Police thought she was home alone, as she did, and they talked about moving her away. If this carries on Sarah will grow up finding it difficult to make friends, especially if her clothes and house are smelly and dirty. She'll grow up learning not to be house proud and may end up with low mood and feeling sad like you do. If she or another child become injured again in your home, like the burnt baby boy, Police or Social Care are likely to step in and take children out of your home.

Danger Statement 2

Louise and her manager are worried that Sarah has seen a number of difficult relationships, like her grandmother's partner and your ex-partner who we know shouted at you and punched the doors. If Sarah continues to see things like this she will grow up scared, particularly of men, like when she heard your ex-partner threaten to burn her house down and she had to move out. She will learn to either make similar threats and frighten others or accept that men should abuse women and choose a partner like that when she's older.

Safety Scales:

On a scale of 0 – 10, where 10 means that Sarah lives in a house where she is cared for the same way every day, going to school in clean clothes, a clean house and bedding and still enjoying special time with mum and 0 is there are no routines, the house is filthy and Sarah doesn't always have bedding, where would you scale the situation?

On a scale of 0 - 10, where 10 means mum always puts Sarah first, even when invited to a party or in a relationship, or is angry with someone, and if she does go out, is in a relationship or is angry she'll make sure that Sarah is kept safe, and 0 means 100% guaranteed that as soon as mum has a distraction she'll be off and make flimsy arrangements for Sarah, where would you scale the situation?

Key Questions

What's Working Well

If I asked Sarah who is the grown up who keeps her safe what would she tell me?

When professionals felt everything was at its best for Sarah, what was mum doing to achieve that? And what else, and what else?

If I asked Sarah what her mummy does really well to help her grow up what would she tell me?

If I asked school what they really like about this Sarah what would they tell me? What positives have they noticed between Sarah and mum when she drops her off/picks her up from school?

From Health's perspective, what are all the good things they see that tell them someone is helping Sarah grow up healthily?

What have you noticed are this young mum's strengths?

If I was to ask Sarah who are the grown-ups that help you grow up well other than mum what would she tell me?

When you've been working with mum when did you most think "she's got it"? How was that information presented to her?

If I asked mum who has been the most helpful worker/service/agency to help her moving things on who would she tell me? What is it that they did that was so helpful?

You've talked about the mismatch between the concerns and Sarah's presentation – tell me the good things about how she presents.

There were times mum was making the right choices, what made her able to do that at those times?

Colleague's Danger Statements

The social worker and her managers are worried that mum makes unsafe choices about partners. We know that mum has allowed a man to stay with her and Sarah who was angry and threatened to burn their house down. If mum continues to choose dangerous partners we are worried that Sarah will be scared or hurt by mums partners and will grow up thinking it's okay for partners to be violent or nasty to her.

The Louise's and Health Visitor are very worried about how Sarah copes and feels when there are new adults in your home. We know that Sarah saw your ex partner punching holes in the doors at your home and that she heard him threatening to burn your house down. We know Sarah was scared when she couldn't wake her uncle when he was "babysitting". These things were so serious the Police had to come to your home. If these things continue we are really worried that Sarah will grow up feeling scared and unsafe in her home and that she won't trust the adults who should care for her.

Sarah is a 5 year old little girl and she needs you as her mummy to make 'good choices' for her to keep her happy and safe. Louise and her manager and school are very worried that sometimes you are not making 'good choices' for Sarah, like the time you had a relationship with a dangerous man who has been violent in Sarah's home and who threatened to burn down your family home. You also left Sarah with her uncle and he wasn't aware he was caring for her. This will have made Sarah feel upset, scared and worried and put her in danger. If you continue to make poor choices then this could result in Sarah getting hurt or being seriously harmed.

Louise and her manager are worried that at times Sarah is not safe at home, like when she was left at home with 18 year old uncle. You thought she was safe but Uncle and Sarah thought they were at home on their own, and like the time where Sarah hasn't had clean bedding on her bed. Louise and her manager would say this is neglectful. We are worried Sarah will not have a safe and clean home for Sarah to plan and live in if this carries on. Sarah could get hurt or lost which could make her feel sad or worried. Sarah may also grow up thinking the living like this is ok.

Louise, her manager and health visitor are worried that mum doesn't always make the right decisions to keep Sarah safe, like the time when mum started a relationship with her ex-partner who threatened to burn the house down. We know that Sarah was worried about being around this man from the video posted on Facebook where he had the dolls head as a puppet. We are worried that when you are in a relationship or having parties Sarah gets ignored, like the time when you went out and Sarah was left in the care of your brother. If this continues we worry that Sarah will grow up not feeling safe, and will be clingy and unable to make friends with people her own age and not be able to concentrate in school learning which will affect her as an adult because she doesn't know who will be looking after her or whether this will be good enough for her to grow up like other children her own age.

Louise and Sarah's health visitor are really worried about some decisions you have made which make life for Sarah unsafe. Sarah has allegedly experienced living in the same house as a violent man, and lots of new people visiting at the weekends which means less time with you to herself. During the times you have a relationship Sarah is not your world and is often ignored. If this continues we worry that Sarah's view of herself would be she is not important. We worry she will struggle with her emotions and behaviour feeling unloved and not your priority.

Louise and her manager are worried that over Sarah's life, the choices you have made have been unsafe for Sarah. We know you have had unsafe partners such as your ex-partner who has been angry in front of you and Sarah, threatened to burn the house down with you and Sarah in it, and punched holes in the walls. We know this has been scary for Sarah because she became quiet at this time, clingy to you, and on the Facebook video, was seen flinching when he was playing with the puppet. We are also worried about the different people who you have decided can look after Sarah, like the time your brother was caring for her. If this continues Sarah will grow up not feeling safe, her learning will be affected and she may feel she is not important.

The social worker and health visitor are worried you don't offer the care Sarah needs all of the time like when she hasn't had clean bed/bedding as seen on home visits, or been left with somebody who is not properly caring for her which has resulted in her being frightened, like when your ex-partner threatened you and punched the walls. When you meet a new partner your focus changes leaving Sarah left out, like when you met ex-partner and were planning to move to Crewe. If this continues Sarah will not be able to trust you to keep her safe and she will think you don't care for her or love her. This will lead to Sarah becoming aloof, isolated and insecure and impact on her own future relationships and ability to provide safe loving care to her own children.

OFFICIAL

Colleague's Safety Goals

Louise and her manager from social care want Sarah to live with her mum as they have seen how sad she becomes when mum isn't there for her. For this to happen, mum needs to work with a support network to choose some suitable adults to ensure that Sarah is always supervised, does not witness shouting or violence and lives in a clean, uncluttered house that is safe. You need to show Louise that you can make good choices on a day to day basis that result in your little girl being safe, happy and healthy. We will see that Sarah has a calm, clean home with consistent carers, no police call outs and Sarah will tell us and show us she is happy and healthy.

The social worker and her manager know that you love Sarah and want to keep her in your care. In order for Sarah to come out of a child protection plan we want you to make safer choices about who you want a relationship with and who Sarah has in her life. Sarah will then feel like your priority and safe in your care. It is really positive that there are times when you are able to look after Sarah well. In order for your case to be closed to social services they would need to see that you are able to keep Sarah safe and that the house you live in is clean and has everything Sarah needs to grow and develop. We would need to be sure that you are able to make good decisions and that Sarah is always looked after properly.