

Anonymised case Study of Get Safe Link Worker

Male young person aged 13years old

Circumstances of young person

A1 has been referred to the weekly, multi-agency Get Safe meeting, following a referral to children services rising concern that A1 is at risk of criminal exploitation. There has been a child protection enquiry and A1 is subject to a child protection plan and open to children's social care.

The concerns identified included:

There are concerns regarding substance use for A1 and his peers

There have been reports of physical fights between the peer group.
A1 has witnessed domestic abuse in the family home.

There are ongoing behavioural difficulties, with his mother reporting him to be beyond her control.

There is limited wider family support.

A1 has been missing three times in the last six months from home.

The GET SAFE link workers intervention plan focuses on:

- Healthy relationships
- Understanding exploitation (age appropriate)
- Substance misuse and impact
- Positive activities and diversionary intervention
- Increasing safety and resilience in the context harm is taking place (community)
- Reducing missing periods
- Healthy self-image

Summary

The link worker has been able to engage A1 in face to face sessions. There has also been contact between the link worker and A1's mother and other key professionals to discuss how we move forward and reduce the vulnerability of this young person. The diversionary intervention of the link worker is taking place alongside a child protection plan and is part of this child's plan. The link worker is part of the multi-

agency professional network working together to reduce the child protection concerns and exploitation.

The link worker is using a contextual safeguarding approach working with A1, striving to understand his risks in the context of his community. The link worker is developing safety plans that take into account the environment where the harm is taking place and building the intervention with a focus of steering A1 to a more positive context and engagement with his education and community. A priority focus of the link worker is to engage this young person with positive activities, providing the opportunity to develop healthy friendships and reducing unsupervised time in the community, where he is most at risk of criminal exploitation and abuse.

We are undertaking one to one sessions in regard to his substance misuse and encouraging his engagement with a specialist agency as we are mindful of the link between substance misuse and the link to criminal exploitation including the risk of debt bondage. There are also concerns that A1 is not having positive and healthy relationships with peers and this is also being looked at as part of the intervention which will support his reduction in going missing from home. So far his engagement with the link worker is positive and this will be a longer term piece of one to one work with him.