

Case Study for Supervision Training

Tara is the mother of 5 children, Charlie is 3, Ethan is 6, Chenise is 10, Carly is 13 and Paul is 15. Tara is in a new relationship with Brian and has been for the last 6 months, Brian is an ex-drug misuser (18 months clean) and Tara is misusing alcohol but currently on a harm reduction programme. There are long standing issues of neglect and the children have currently been the subject of child protection plans for the last three months due to several professional’s concerns. The children were the subject of child protection plans 3 years ago when Tara was pregnant with Charlie due to her alcohol misuse and her relationship with Charlie’s father where there were ongoing domestic violence incidents. Tara ended that relationship and maintained abstinence from alcohol for 2 years, however the death of her mother 6 months ago led to Tara misusing alcohol and beginning this new relationship with Brian. Tara’s mother was seen as a protective factor. There is limited information about Brian’s history except confirmation from his drug worker that he is no longer in current drug treatment and he engaged well. Charlie has global development delay (potentially due to Tara’s alcohol misuse in pregnancy), his behaviour is difficult and Tara often finds this frustrating. Ethan is a quiet and withdrawn pupil who is difficult to engage. Chenise is a precocious, outgoing girl who mothers Ethan and Charlie and thrives on the attention of adults. Carly spends her time online in the cyber world and has recently had episodes of going missing, she hangs around with older pupils in school. Paul is in with a ‘bad crowd’ and has recently started misusing cannabis which both Brian and Tara find acceptable. Ethan is achieving above average in school, the others are below average with Charlie having the biggest difficulties. Attendance is around 85% but lateness is problematic. The children have episodes of poor appearance however when this is address with Tara she does make efforts to improve this (social worker notes the same with home conditions) Tara is often weepy and tearful and fiercely protective of her family. She co-operates with services and attends meetings but there is limited change. Social care describe this case as ‘low-level’.

In your groups discuss this case:

What are your concerns and worries?

What is your reflection on what is happening?

If you were supervising this case what more information would you want to know?

What can the school offer be across the whole age range?

What challenges might you make in the next core group?

How would you measure impact and outcome for the child?

How could you advocate for the child and how are each of those individual children feeling?

How would you empower your supervisee to move the case forward? (what support would you offer)

Why do you think that term ‘low-level’ has been used? How could you change other people’s perceptions?