

Social Work Online Team Training (SWOTT) toolkit

Us Too: Domestic abuse, sexual violence & people with learning disabilities and autistic people

CASE STUDY TWO – MISHA

Misha is a young woman with learning disabilities. She is also autistic. You are her social worker. She has been in a relationship and living with Jack for 6 months. All seemed to be going well on the surface, but recently Misha seems to have stopped looking after herself and has missed your appointments. She says that she and Jack have started rowing. She starts crying and tells you this story:

“I have always just wanted to be loved. Then I met Jack and he was lovely. Everyone loved him. He treated me like a grown up, buying me drinks and taking me out to the casino. When he loses, he borrows money from me. I never get it back, but I don’t mind, it’s what you do if you love someone. Two months ago Jack started telling me what to do the whole time, and he always needed to know where I was, who I was with. He says he is just looking after me. Jack was always fun to be with, and I wanted to please him, but now he says I don’t need my friends, I have him, and that’s all I need.”

“Jack has a temper and has started smashing things when we row. He tells me it is all my fault, that I made him angry. He hasn’t hurt me yet, but some of my friends are scared of him, and they tell me I should get out. I didn’t think I could get pregnant, but I missed my last period. Jack has always told me he wanted me to have a baby, but I am frightened to tell him. I think I might need to get away from him, but I don’t know how and I am frightened.”

Questions

1. What are your concerns?
2. What can you do to help?



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