



Understanding Coercive Control

CASE STUDY 2: ADAM

Adam is 9 and he has 2 younger siblings Leila 3 and Violet 4 years old. He lives with his mum and stepfather. You are the allocated social worker for his family. The referral is a standard risk DASH from the police. This is the 4th Standard risk DASH received into the Safeguarding Hub within the last 2 months which is why it has progressed to assessment. The DASH's all have similar themes of neighbours reporting shouting and banging coming from the property and children heard crying or seen crying at the bedroom window. Police struggle to gain access to the property and can hear mum on the phone before answering to them, but on entering always find the home conditions to be of an extremely high standard, lots of food and toys available. Mum reports that they are just stressed, and money is tight and that this is what triggers them to argue. Adam's school attendance is low at 77%, school often struggle to gain access to the home when undertaking welfare checks. Adam does well at school academically and is reported to be a lovely, kind and caring young person.

When you talk to Adam alone at school, he tells you that sometimes he struggles to get out of the house with his mum in a morning because the door is locked, and mum can't always find her keys, so he must miss school. Adam tells you that his stepdad works long hours and that they are usually very hungry for their tea by the time he gets home. Adam talks about playing games with his sisters and mum whilst they wait for their 'dad' to come home for tea. Adam's favourite meal is mum's cottage pie. Adam tells you that he doesn't like it when he must miss school and that his favourite lesson is maths.

Consider:

1. What are your worries for Adam, Leila and Violet?
2. What additional questions would you want to ask?
3. What else would you consider when planning to visit this family?