



Understanding Coercive Control

CASE STUDY 1: NICOLE

Nicole is 28 years old and has a considerable history with both children's and adult social care. Approximately 4 months ago family court agreed the adoption of Nicole's daughter Annabella who has been in foster care since she was 8 months old due to physical harm, non-accidental injury and neglect. All contact has now stopped for Nicole with her daughter. Nicole has physical and mental health issues including being diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (MS), and borderline personality disorder. Nicole's mental health has declined significantly over the last 6 months, to the point where Nicole no longer leaves the home at all, when she has been seen by professionals and family, she appears withdrawn, confused and possibly under the influence of substances.

Annabella's father Mickey and Nicole remain in a relationship, there have been concerns around Mickey being abusive towards Nicole historically, and family members have made some indications that Mickey was the cause of Annabella's non-accidental injuries rather than Nicole, who told police that she had been the one to cause the harm to their daughter. Mickey presents as very angry when you have gone to meet with Nicole and you haven't been able to meet with Nicole alone since the initial referral.

Consider:

Does anything in the case study raise any concerns professionally?

What tools/systems/services could you use to support gathering and collating the information about the historical abuse Mickey perpetrated?

What considerations would you need to make if planning to explore with Nicole her experience of DA?