



CASE STUDY 1: ANGELA

Read the case scenario

Angela is a 22 years old Chinese transgender (MTF- male to female) person. She has been referred to social services for an initial assessment due to concerns raised by her fitzwilliam worker that she is using drugs again and seems very low in mood.

Angela has a history of depression and drug use. Previously, Angela took heroin and smoked weed. Angela came to the country aged 17 as an unaccompanied asylum seeker and she is currently living in support accommodation.

She does not know anyone in the UK and says all of her family is still in China. Her key worker, James, who works at her accommodation, hasn't been able to engage her in any meaningful direct work. She seems nervous all the time and does not make eye contact. English is not her first language.

Angela is on hormone therapy; she is on the waiting list for NHS gender identity services but is self medicating while she waits. She gets the medication from her boyfriend, 43-year-old Steve. Steve often calls for Angela in the early hours of the morning, he frequently smells of alcohol and is abusive towards accommodation staff, swearing at them and threatening violence. Angela said she is happy with him and he makes her feel pretty and loved.

Questions

- What are you worried about as Angela's social worker?
- What is a strength/positive to this situation?
- What do you need to consider when visiting Angela