

Social Work Online Team Training (SWOTT) toolkit:

LEARNING OBJECT 2: CASE STUDY - MICHAEL

Child Welfare Inequalities: Ethnicity & Deprivation

Michael is 14 years old and goes to King Edward's School, a comprehensive school in a predominantly White (95 per cent) part of Mosshire. His parents live about ten minutes' walk from the school in a nice suburb of the rural county. His mother works as a nurse and his father works as a radiographer in the nearby Mosshire hospital. Michael's mother has Black Caribbean heritage and was taken into care when she was three-years old. She was adopted by a White couple in Mosshire when she was six. Michael's father has multi-ethnic heritage; his father was Indian and his mother White British. Michael's father moved to rural Mosshire with his mother as a teenager after his father passed away. Under English census classifications Michael would be classed as being 'Mixed Heritage (Other)'.

He was referred to children's services by the school. This referral escalated to an assessment on the basis of 'out of control' behaviour and suspected criminal exploitation. His headteacher, Mr. James, reports that Michael has multiple truancies on his attendance record; that he has been stopped and searched by local police, who found him to be in possession of alcohol that he was taking to a friend's house; and that he has been excluded on two occasions for starting fights with other boys. Mr. James also believes that Michael has begun to be ingratiated with a local gang after school.

Mr. James states that Michael's parents have failed to turn up to parents' evenings, and when they have responded to phone calls, they have been 'aggressive and angry', and were 'defensive and dismissive' regarding the school's concerns.

