**RECORD OF LEGAL PLANNING MEETING: PART ONE**

**NOTE - this referral should be accompanied by a genogram, chronology, most recent assessment and any other relevant assessment reports, most recent child protection documents including most recent core group meeting record, police and partner agency reports.**

**SUBJECT CHILDREN**

| **Azeus Ref.** | **Surname** | **First Name** | **DOB (age)** | **Ethnicity** | **CP Plan category & start date** | **Legal Status** | **Primary carer(s)** | **Present care arrangements** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1234567 | Smith | Ted | 02/09/2020(3 months) | WBB | Neglect, 20/08/2020 | N/A | Mother | Living with mother, sister at MGM’s |
| 1234566 | Smith | Rose | 05/09/2018(2y) | WBB | Neglect, 20/08/2020 | N/A | Mother | Living with mother, brother at MGM’s |
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**RELATED CHILDREN**

| **Azeus Ref.** | **Surname** | **First Name** | **DOB (age)** | **Ethnicity** | **CP Plan category & start date** | **Legal Status** | **Primary carer(s)** | **Present care arrangements** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 123459 | Adams | Ann | 5y | WBB | N/A | N/A | Mother | Living with her mother |
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**RELATED ADULTS**

| **Surname** | **First Name** | **DOB (age)** | **Ethnicity** | **Relationship to children** | **PR** **(Y/N)** | **Resident (Y/N)** | **Current location** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Smith  | Alex | 03/09/2001(19y) | WBB | Mother | Y | Y | Living with children and her mother at MGM’s address |
| Wallace | Sam | 05/07/1991(29y) | BB | Father of Ted | N | N | Living with children at times, other times unknown |
| Collins | Mike | 08/05/200020y | BB | Father of Rose | Y | N | Unknown |
| House | Lisa | 07/08/198634y | WB | MGM | N | Y | Living with mother and children at her address  |

**Previous Proceedings**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Are you aware of any relevant family court proceedings involving the Children or Parents?** | Y |
| **If yes please complete as much of the following as possible. If you do not have information please state “*Not known*”** |
| **Names of Parties (including applicant local authority)** | **Applicant:** | LB Newham |
| **Respondents:** | Ms Smith, Mr Collins and Rose through her Guardian  |
| **Guardian** | Ms Lee |
| **Type of Order (e.g. Care Order, Contact Order etc.)** | SO |
| **Date of Order** | 05/10/2019 |
| **Court** | Inner London Family Court |

**BACKGROUND**

| **Please summarise the family history including the history of Children’s Services intervention – reference any inter-generational patterns of note, and interventions with any previous children who are not the subject of this LPM. Please describe the type of interventions offered to the family, the framework within which these were delivered and their outcomes. *Maximum 400 words, please use bullet points.*** |
| --- |
| * **Ms Smith is a care leaver and was accommodated by Newham LA in 2016 when she was 15 (initially under section 20 then a CO when 16) due to being beyond parental control, her mother had substance misuse issues (alcohol, cannabis and cocaine mainly) and could not implement consistent boundaries and ensure Ms Smith’s safety. Ms House also had numerous relationships were DV was a feature and Ms Smith witnessed her mother being abused from a very young age. Ms Smith was sexually exploited, started using drugs at a young age (mainly cannabis), disengaged with her education and has numerous offences including GBH.**
* **When Ms Smith became pregnant with Rose she was in an abusive relationship. Care proceedings were issued at birth and Ms Smith showed positive progress during the proceedings, she engaged with the freedom programme and triple P, separated from her abusive partner (Rose’s father), demonstrated insight into the concerns, distances herself from concerning associates (including from an older male who had groomed her from a young age and was a violent offender) and showed abstinence from drugs. She worked well with the SW and a SO was made at the conclusion of proceedings (October 2019). Rose was meeting all her developmental milestones and was observed having a good attachment to her mother.**
* **Rose was supported under a CIN plan from the expiring of the SO until it became known that Ms Smith was again pregnant, this was discovered late and there were concerns Ms Smith was concealing the pregnancy. Professionals started to become concerned that Ms Smith was not being open and honest (she was being vague about who the father was, she was missing appointments, her flat was looking neglected and she seemed less organised in general in terms of making sure she had food prepared for Rose and clean clothes for example). A pre-birth assessment was completed and as part of this the SW met with the father of the unborn baby. Police checks were completed, without a trace. However, 3 days ago it became known that the father gave false details and is in fact the older male who groomed Ms Smith from a young age and who is a career criminal (offences include drug dealing, GBH, robbery and handling guns). This is the reason for the urgent LPM.**
 |

**RISKS AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS**

| **Please provide an analysis of the current risk and protective factors, and any existing strengths in the immediate/wider family. Please also outline the outcome of any assessments undertaken and say how they inform your analysis. *Maximum 400 words, please use bullet points.*** |
| --- |
| **Current risks identified in the pre-birth assessment:*** **Mr Wallace is a known career criminal, he himself has stated he cannot take public transport in Newham as he would be likely to be hurt by rival gangs, he has also stated he cannot be seen in public with Ms Smith and the children as this would put them at risk.**
* **Ms Smith has a history of shutting professionals out when she is in a destructive relationship, Mr Wallace has groomed her since the age of 15 and she is not able to assess risks accurately when prioritising his needs over her children’s.**
* **Ms Smith’s and Ms House’s relationship is turbulent. Ms House was complicit in the lie about Mr Wallace’s true identity and is not a protective factor.**
* **Ms House abstinence is fragile and when she is misusing drugs and alcohol she becomes argumentative and she and Ms Smith regularly ends up falling out and moving apart. The children are often present during volatile arguments between their mother and MGM.**
* **There was a recent incident (25/11/2020) when the police attended Ms Smith’s flat looking for Mr Wallace as he is currently wanted for a robbery. Ms Smith claimed she had not met Mr Wallace for several years and did not know his whereabouts. The police reported the children looked dishevelled, the flat was extremely untidy and dirty, Ms Smith looked really tired and was argumentative. Ms Smith has since said she was afraid of telling the truth as she knew we would escalate our intervention if we knew Mr Wallace was yet again in her life.**

**Strengths:*** **Rose continues to do well developmentally, she is healthy and bubbly, she has a good relationship with her mother but observations suggest they are more like sisters than mother and daughter.**
* **Ted is also meeting his developmental milestones and is healthy. He too has a good relationship with his mother but is at times observed to be a bit placid and equally happy being held by other adults.**

**The outcome of the pre-birth assessment was to proceed to ICPC, however it was following the completion of the assessment that Mr Wallace’s identity became known and the concerns therefore escalated.**  |
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**PROPOSED CARE PLAN**

| **Please present a concise care plan. Clearly state the course of action you are proposing, what the plan is intended to achieve (expected outcomes), timescales and any resources required, including recommendations for any expert assessments and the rationale for these. *Maximum 400 words, please use bullet points.*** |
| --- |
| * **Issue care proceedings and seek ICOs in regards to both children.**
* **Propose mother and child foster placement for both children to be placed with mother during proceedings, location to be kept confidential from Mr Wallace.**
* **Parenting assessment by allocated SW, to consider both parents’ together and individually.**
* **Forensic psychological assessment of both Ms Smith and Mr Wallace.**
* **Together or apart assessment.**
* **MGM has had a negative viability in the past and so has Rose father but these may need to be updated if they are putting themselves forward again, in order to avoid delay.**
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**MANAGER COMMENTS & AUTHORISATION**

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| --- | --- |
| **Name** |  |
| **Service Area** |  |
| **Comments** |  |
| **Date** |  |
| **Signature** |  |

**RECORD OF LEGAL PLANNING MEETING: PART TWO**

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| --- | --- |
| **Date of LPM** |  |
| **Present & Apologies** |  |

| **Documents:** |
| --- |
| The documents provided before the LPM were: |

| **Analytical summary, update and clarification** |
| --- |
|  |

| **Views of the Conference Chair/Independent Reviewing Officer – *please state how these were obtained*** |
| --- |
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| **Legal Advice**The advice provided at the LPM is based only upon the documents provided before the LPM and the discussions at the LPM |
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| **Decision/Plan**  |
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| **Action/Decision** | **Person Responsible** | **Timescale for completion****(DD.MM.YYYY)** | **Task Completed****(DD.MM.YYYY)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
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**TO BE COMPLETED BY THE CHAIR:**

**Repeat Proceedings (new child)** **Domestic Abuse**

**Repeat Proceedings (same child/ren) Physical Abuse**

**Decision to Issue Pre-Birth Sexual Abuse**

**Parental LD Parent with NRPF**

**Parental MH Parental Substance Misuse**

**Mother is under 18 Neglect**

**Mother is LAC/Care Leaver Beyond Parental Control**

**CSE/CCE COVID 19 Impact**

**Meets criteria for Pause**