Research in Practice -Assessing risk of further child maltreatment: a research based approach.

Assessment considering risks and protective factors for Joshua Smith, DOB:13.6.2017 in relation to Ms Kate Smith, mother.

Factors in italics are more strongly associated with increased risk: prior maltreatment, neglect, developmental delay, very young child, learning disabilities, parent- child difficulties, parental conflict, personality disorder, lack of social, family support networks and significant mental health.

Domestic abuse, mental health problems and substance misuse interact to escalate harm. Assessment to be reviewed at least every six months as significant harm increases with length of exposure (particularly in relation to domestic abuse and neglect)

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| Factors | Future significant harm more likely | Future Significant harm less likely | Source of information |
| **Abuse** | ***Neglect:***  Joshua has been exposed to alcohol and domestic abuse in utero. Ms Smith reports carrying Joshua around and this is likely to have contributed towards his physical developmental delay. Ms Smith has been observed intoxicated.  Joshua may have FASD due to alcohol exposure in early pregnancy. |  | Assessment session on 30.7.18 and 31.7.18.  Welfare check on 23.6.18 |
| **Child** | ***Developmental delay with special needs:***  Joshua has developmental delay and has possible FASD. Joshua also needs support with emotional regulation. |  | Health records files. |
| ***Very young child requiring rapid parental change.***  Joshua is 1 year and 2 month old. |  |  |
| **Parent** | ***Significant Parental Mental Health problems.***  Ms Smith has had psychotic symptoms on two occasions although she has not been sectioned.  Ms Smith has anxiety and depression. | **Mental disorder responsive to treatment:**  Ms Smith is receiving and engaging in support from Recovery Service. | MASH form Lincolnshire dated 26.5.2015  Information from Recovery Service gathered for TACS initial Assessment. |
|  | **Willingness to engage with services:**  Ms Smith is currently engaging with Recovery Services and expresses a commitment to engaging with CGL and TACS. | Assessment session on 30.7.18. |
|  | **Recognition of problem:**  Ms Smith has acknowledged concerns and issues around her alcohol use, mental health and care of Joshua. | Assessment session on 30.7.18 |
|  | **Responsibility taken:**  Ms Smith has shown insight and accepting of concerns around her care of Joshua. Ms Smith has expressed shame and guilt over not protecting her child and reports lying for Mr Jones in relation to allegations of physical abuse against Molly. | Assessment session on 30.7.18. |
| **Substance abuse:**  Ms Smith has a history of alcohol misuse prior to Joshua’s birth. Ms Smith consumed alcohol in pregnancy and reports resuming drinking alcohol when Joshua was over 1 year old. |  | Case note on 18.6.18 |
| **Parenting and Parent/ Child Interaction** | **Disorganised and insecure forms of attachment**.  There have been some observations on behaviours from Joshua which could suggest insecure forms of attachment (rocking and lack of reciprocate responses). |  | Foster carers’ reports. |
| . | **Empathy for child:**  Ms Smith expresses understanding and empathy into the impact on Joshua and her other children from their experiences. | Assessment session on 31.7.18. |
| **Poor parenting competence:**  Joshua’s emotional attachment and basic care needs for safety have not been met when Ms Smith has been intoxicated. Joshua has physical developmental delay which could contributable to Ms Smith not providing adequate opportunities for tummy time. | **Parenting competence in some areas**: There have been positive observations in contact and by health visitors over Ms Smith being responsive and warm towards Joshua. | Assessment session on 31.7.18.  Contact recordings |
| **Own needs before child’s**  Ms Smith has prioritised using alcohol over Joshua’s needs for consistent and safe care. |  | Case recordings on 18.6.18,  Initial social worker statement.  Welfare checks on 30.6.18. |
| **Family** | ***Inter – parental conflict and violence:***  Allegations of physical and emotional abuse from Mr Jones towards Ms Smith. |  | DA incidents reported to police in:  2007, November 2009, 3.9.2014 and 26.9.2016.  Mr Jones known as suspect in DA and CP on police database. |
| **Social Setting** | **Lack of social and family support networks and lone parenthood:**  Ms Smith has no family support networks In Gloucestershire. Ms Smith is a single parent. |  |  |
|  | **Involvement of legal or medical services:**  Care proceedings have now been issued in relation to Joshua. |  |

References:

Source: Jones et al (2006) adapted by Rebeca Brown and Ward (2012), further adapted by NSPCC in 2015 to reflect White et al (2015).

Risk Assessment completed by: Name of Social worker, Job Title Date: 8.8.18