



Contact: (Name of Social Worker)
Tel: (01274)
Mob:
Email:
Date:

Dear Jenny

Bradford Children and Families Trust's concerns about Rosie Smith - Letter of Issue

I am writing to you on behalf of Bradford Children and Families Trust to let you know how worried Lucy Johnson, social worker, and Bradford Children and Families Trust have become about your care of Rosie. We believe that Rosie is still likely to suffer harm in your care while you are in a relationship with Mike despite the support offered during the pre-proceedings process.

Bradford Children and Families Trust will be initiating Care Proceedings in relation to Rosie. This means that we will be applying to the Court and if the Court decides that this is best for her, Rosie could be taken into care.

We have set out in this letter the concerns we have about Rosie and the things that have been done to try to help your family.

What you need to do next

Come to an important meeting to talk about what will happen next:

Please come to a meeting with us to talk about these concerns on **19th February 2024** and at 10am at **Sir Henry Mitchell House**. The address of the meeting is 4 Manchester Road, Bradford BD5 0QL There is a map with this letter to help you find it.

At the meeting we will discuss with you the reasons for going to Court. We will also talk about who in your family could look after Rosie if you are not able to.

Getting advice from a Solicitor:

Please bring a solicitor to the meeting on 19th February 2024

It will be really helpful for you to have some further legal advice. Please take this letter to your solicitor as soon as possible and ask them to come to the meeting with you. They will help you to understand the situation and advise you about your rights and your options. You will not have to pay for this.

Information your solicitor will need is:

Local Authority Legal Contact: **[name, address and telephone]**

Here are the main things that we are worried about

What we are worried about:

Jenny, we are worried about your relationship with Mike and how this impacts on Rosie. The police have told you about Mike's previous convictions for domestic abuse, and we know that he has been abusive towards you too.

After the police were called on 10th February 2022, you were seen with bruises where Mike had hit you, and you told police that he regularly shouts, screams and threatens you, and that he has physically hurt you before. You said that you would separate from Mike, but have now said that you do not think he poses a risk and you want to stay with him. We are worried that you might not feel able to split up with him, but if you do not let professionals help you, then both you and Rosie are at risk of serious physical and emotional harm.

During direct work, Rosie has said that she is frightened of Mike and that she feels upset when you argue. We are also worried Rosie could get hurt when Mike is violent towards you.

Jenny, we are worried about how your emotional wellbeing affects Rosie. For example, when you get upset you have been seen to shout and scream and get frustrated which is frightening for Rosie.

When you are feeling down you have also said you find it hard to motivate yourself to get up and maintain a routine. This means that Rosie is often late to school, often misses meals and has limited opportunities to do activities outside of the home.

We are worried about your cannabis use, and how this affects your mental health. Cannabis is known to change a person's mood or behaviour and is linked to an increased risk of anxiety and depression.

We are worried your cannabis use may be impacting on how you feel and in turn, the care you offer Rosie day to day. This is frightening and confusing for Rosie.

Rosie has been on a child protection plan since November 2022 because of the worries about the relationship between you and Mike, your mental health and your cannabis use. We are worried that despite all of the support you have been provided with whilst the Child Protection plan has been in place, as well as that offered during the 3 months of pre-proceedings, things haven't really changed and Rosie continues to witness frightening incidents and be likely to suffer significant harm.

This is what has already been done to try to support your family:

What help or support has been provided	What agency or person has provided the help	Date of support
As part of the child protection plan, Lucy has visited you and Rosie at least once every 10 working days and talked to you about healthy relationships, caring for Rosie and keeping her safe.	Lucy Johnson (Social Worker)	Since November 2022
Lucy has helped you to link in with Staying Put, who supported you to get a non-molestation order against Mike and protective measures put in at your home.	Lucy Johnson (Social Worker) Staying Put	January 2023-onwards
The police have visited you alongside the allocated Social Worker to share information in regards to Mike's previous convictions for domestic abuse, and to share ways in which professionals can support you to end the relationship.	Lucy Johnson (Social Worker) The Police	February 2024
Rosie's school provide her with access to their 'nurture group' and have also offered to have Rosie in their breakfast club.	Rosie's school	Since September 2022
A Family Group Conference has taken place and your family identified what they could do to support you and Rosie together In addition to this, your family identified who could potentially care for Rosie should the court agree that she needed to live outside of your care.	Lucy Johnson (Social Worker) Family Group Conference Service	January 2024

Get your wider family involved

Our worries about Rosie are very serious. When we go to Court and the Court decides you cannot care for Rosie, we will first try to place them in the care of one of your relatives, if this would be best for her.

At the meeting we will want to talk to you and your solicitor about who might look after Rosie if the Court decides that it is no longer safe for you to do so. It would be helpful for you to think about this before the meeting.

If you would like an adult family member or friend to attend the meeting with you for support, please ask Lucy whether this would be possible.

What will happen if you do nothing?

If you do nothing, we will go to Court.

This means if you do not answer this letter or come to the meeting, we will still go to Court as soon as we can to make sure Rosie is safe.

I know this will be a very difficult letter to read and I know that this meeting might sound frightening. I would really like to see you at the meeting on **date** and I will support you to attend however I can. Please let us know if you need any help with child care or transport arrangements so that you can come to the meeting, and we will try to help.

If you do not understand any part of this letter, please contact your child's social worker Lucy on 01274 123456

Yours sincerely

[name]

Team Manager [name of team]

Copies of the letter have been sent to:

- Social Worker [name] and the Local Authority in-house Legal Team

Enclosed with this letter are:

- A map and directions to where the meeting will take place
- A list of Solicitors who are members of the Law Society's Children Law Accreditation Scheme