



Contact:  
Tel:  
Mob:  
Email:  
Date:

Dear Jenny

### Bradford Children and Families Trust's worries about Rosie Smith - Letter Before Proceedings

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. The situation for Rosie has become so serious that we may need to apply to Court.

There are things that you can do to stop this from happening and we are writing to you now to give you a last chance to make the changes needed to make sure Rosie is safe.

Otherwise we will apply to Court and if the Court decides that this is best for her, Rosie could be removed from your care. We have set out in this letter the worries we have about your child and what you need to do next so that we will not go to Court.

### What you must do so that we will not go to Court

#### **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 **25<sup>th</sup> 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 and tell you what you will need to do to make Rosie safe. We will talk to you about how we will support you to do this. We will also make clear what steps we will take if we continue to be worried about your child.

At the meeting we will also discuss what has previously worked/ is working well and what support has been tried and is available to you.

**Getting advice from a Solicitor:**

**Please bring a solicitor to the meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

It will be really helpful for you to have some free legal advice. Please take this letter to a 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.

With this letter we have provided a list of local solicitors who work with children and families. They are all separate from Bradford Children and Families Trust. You do not have to bring a solicitor to the meeting, but it will be helpful if you do.

**Information your solicitor will need is:**

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

**Here are the main things that we are worried about and what we need you to do:**

**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 10<sup>th</sup> February 2024, 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

**What we need you to do and by when:**

We need you to follow the agreed safety plan where you call the police if Mike comes to your house or tries to contact you. The police and social care have told Mike that he is not to contact you because of the domestic abuse.

We agreed that Lucy will contact the Freedom Programme for you by 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024. We need you to attend each session that is offered to you as part of the course to help develop your understanding of domestic abuse.

We really want to help you to understand how scary it feels for Rosie when she hears and sees this arguing and fighting and sees that you are hurt.

At the first PLO meeting, we will ask you to agree to a psychological assessment which

<p>example, when you get upset you have been seen to shout and scream and get frustrated which is frightening for Rosie.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>will help you and professionals understand your needs and how best to support you. If you agree, we will instruct a psychologist to undertake this assessment within 5 days. You will need to attend the assessment session.</p> <p>We need you to contact My Wellbeing College by 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024 so that you can start to receive support for your mental health and wellbeing.</p>
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>At the first PLO meeting, we will ask you to agree to hair strand testing so that we can all be clear about your level of cannabis use. If you agree, we will make the referral for this within 5 days.</p> <p>We also need you to refer yourself to CGL (Change, Grow, Live) by 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024 to start to work with professionals towards reducing and ultimately abstaining from using cannabis.</p>
<p>Rosie has been on a child protection plan since November 2022 because of these 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, things haven't really changed and Rosie continues to witness frightening incidents and be at significant risk of harm.</p>	<p>We need you to work with Rosie's social worker to complete the parenting assessment, which will consider the barriers to us being able to work together to make changes over the last 15 months.</p>

<b>This is what has already been done to try to support your family:</b>		
<b>What help or support has been provided</b>	<b>What agency or person has provided the help</b>	<b>Date of support</b>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Lucy Johnson (Social Worker)</p>	<p>Since November 2022</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Lucy Johnson (Social Worker) Staying Put</p>	<p>February 2024 - onwards</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>Lucy Johnson (Social Worker)</p>	<p>February 2024</p>

share ways in which professionals can support you to end the relationship.	The Police	
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

### **What Bradford Children and Families Trust are proposing to do:**

1. We will complete a parenting and/or risk assessment. The assessment will help us to make a decision about whether you can keep Rosie safe and if we will apply to court. We will provide you with a written assessment plan at the meeting with your solicitor. We are aiming to complete the assessment within 12 weeks.
2. We will complete any necessary referrals for support services for your family. At the meeting we will discuss with you what support can be put in place to help you with the things you need to do.
3. We will complete assessments of any family or friends who could be alternative carers for Rosie should they be required, within 8 weeks.

### **Get your wider family involved**

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

At the meeting we will want to talk to you and your solicitor about who might look after Rosie if it is decided that she cannot safely live with you. This might be a decision the Court makes in the future. It would be helpful for you to think about this before the meeting. These people will need to agree to an assessment to decide if Rosie could live with them if she couldn't live with you. It is important you speak to them and let them know how serious things are. We can help you do this if you need us to.

If you would like an adult family member or friend to attend the meeting with you for support, please ask your child's social worker whether this would be possible.

### **What will happen if you do nothing?**

If you do nothing, we will have to go to Court.

This means if you do not answer this letter or come to the meeting, we will go to Court as soon as we can so we can get some help 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 **25<sup>th</sup> February 2024** 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 Johnson** on **[tel. no:]**.

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