

Reason for referral and summary of our involvement

A referral was received from the Midwifery team on 26/01/2023 stating that Katie: Mother is 30+2 pregnant with her 3rd child referred her pregnancy in December but did not come and has had 3 X DNAs since her initial referral. It was reported that Katie managed to do a pregnancy booking via phone while she had covid but did not come to the follow-up appointment. When we received the referral, the last contact was reported to be on 15th January for virtual booking but however Katie has not responded to texts or calls since.

The family has an extensive history with Bromley Children Services. Zahara Townsend was made subject to a Child Protection plan under the category of neglect on 24/07/2019 (before birth). On 20/06/2019 the LA received a referral from the Midwifery Team at Queen Mary's Hospital which advised that both Katie and Kevin (Father) were undergoing treatment to stop heroin use. Katie was said to have relapsed on heroin in March-April 2019 after having maintained abstinence for the previous 2 years and had now completed her opiate substitute treatment. Kevin was still receiving his own opiate substitute treatment at this time. Katie had informed midwives that she was having arguments with Kevin when they were on heroin due to money difficulties, but that this had since resolved.

The Local Authority is worried that Mya, the eldest child of Katie and Kevin, was removed from their care as a result of concerns regarding drug misuse (heroin and cocaine) of both parents; domestic abuse in their relationship; Katie experiencing poor mental health (being admitted to hospital with suicidal ideation in March 2016); and both parents demonstrating a lack of willingness to engage with support and services to promote positive change. As such Mya was placed with her maternal grandmother under an SGO on 16 December 2016 and up to now she is under an SGO.

Katie and Kevin are both known to have relapsed and were using heroin again in March-April 2019. There remained concerns that both parents continued to misuse drugs at this time. This had a negative impact on the baby in utero as well as a significantly impact on the care and environment afforded to the baby post-birth.

Katie was referred to Bromley Children's Project (BCP) on 23/01/2023 however no contact has been received from Katie despite contacts from BCP. The MASH information also shows that Katie was invited to parenting courses and groups in 2022 but did not attend.

There are concerns that Zahara and Mya have been supported with Child Protection (CP) plans, Child in Need (CIN) plans, Children Looked After (CLA) and been on a supervision order to the LA of Bromley and I am worried that Katie is not sustaining any changes.

Current Circumstances

The Local Authority is concerned that Katie has failed to attend 16 Midwife appointments. Katie has only attended 2 scans and 1 Midwife appointment. A urine

toxicology was recently completed on 03/03/2023 and it is worrying that Katie tested positive for Morphine, Codeine and Buprenorphine Metabolites. During agency checks, the GP confirmed to the Midwifery team that the only medication Katie has been prescribed is an inhaler for her asthma. The Midwifery team raised concerns that opiates Katie is using are used as heroin replacement (Subutex drugs). During the Initial Child Protection Conference, held on 14/03/2023, Katie shared that she has been taking her grandmother's drugs to assist with her sleeping. She admitted to struggling with her mental health and she was clear that she needs support regarding her relapse, and this is evidenced with her substance misuse.

Katie has admitted that she has been using heroine during her pregnancy with Unborn baby. Zahara and Unborn baby were made subject to Child Protection Plans under the Category of Neglect on 14/03/2023. A legal planning meeting was convened, and a recommendation was made for the LA to apply to the Court for the Interim Care Order.

Zahara and Unborn Baby became Child Looked After on 22/03/2023 given the above vulnerabilities of Katie's s continued drug misuse. Katie completed Section 20 agreement for Zahara, Baby and herself to be in a residential mother and baby unit/ mother and baby foster placement. Ms Townsend gave birth to Jessica on 29/03/2023 and Care Proceedings were issued. Zahara and Jessica are now subject to an Interim Care Order as of 05/04/2023 and they are in a mother and baby foster placement with their mother.

Risk/Complicating Factors

- We are worried that Katie has missed 16 appointments with the midwife.
- There are concerns regarding disguised compliance by Katie and poor engagement with professionals.
- Katie has history of substance misuse and reports that she is currently depressed. The eldest child Mya is on an SGO to the maternal grandmother.
- The father of Jessica remains unclear. Katie shared that the pregnancy was a result of a one-night stand with a friend of a friend. She only known that his name is Wayne.
- The Police highlighted that there is extensive history of Keith (Zahara and Mya 's father), all around drug and theft offences and recently false imprisonment of other drug users. He has been recently released from prison and it remains unclear the risk he will pose to the family given his concerning history. A review of the history- the parenting assessment completed in 2016 raised concerns regarding Katie's lack of transparency about the pertinent matters affecting Mya's safety and welfare by then including the status of her relationship with Keith.
- The fact that putative father remains unknown as Katie shared that it was a one-night stand with an unknown person, this remains a grey area. It is my opinion that Keith might be the father given that the pregnancy was conceived when he was out of prison. This needs to be further explored with the family.

Interim Safety / Support plan

I completed safety planning with Katie and as part of the Safety plan she agreed to engage with the Midwifery team and all health professionals. Katie agrees to advise professionals if she feels overwhelmed. Katie will not allow contact between the children and Keith until a Risk Assessment is completed regarding him.

Key Dates : The Case Management Hearing is listed on 4th May 2023 at 3pm before District Judge Walker.

Initial Child Looked After Review : 12/07/2023 at 10:00am.

Initial Pep Meeting : 19/04/2023 at 10:00am

Professionals involved & contact details :

Carer:

Placement Supervising Social Worker:

Placement: estherlawal@parentandchildfosteringassessments.co.uk

Placement Manager:

Named Midwife for Safeguarding Children

Team	Leader	-	Midwifery	Team:
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Bromley	Health	Visiting	Team:
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Family	members	&	contact	details
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Mother

Father

Grandmother

Any other relevant information including risks, hazards, bail conditions, contact arrangements etc

There is no current contact between the children and Keith until a risk assessment is completed.

Key information at the point of transfer.

An Interim Care Order was granted on 05/04/2023. During the Initial Child Looked After Review Katie disclosed that Keith is the father to Jessica. The family will transfer to the Court Team for further support.

An Initial Child Looked After Review was convened and the next CLA Review is scheduled to take place on 12/07/2023 at 10am