

## Case Supervision

**Remember the core behaviours of the Bromley Relationship Model during supervision: curiosity, skilled questioning, equality, neutrality, child centred and communication**

**Date of Case Supervision: 09-Mar-2023**

### Case discussion update:

The main concerns regarding why the children are currently subject to a child protection (CP) plan relate to Chanelle and Stacey's low school attendance and adult supervision in that it has been previously found the children have been left home alone whilst mother has been at work.

**Current situation:** There has been a recent change in Social Worker (SW) due to the previous Social Worker leaving the department. SW Paulo had case discussions with the previous SW, and it is confirmed she is up to date with the case details and reasons for Child in Need (CIN) involvement.

During the last school academic year (2021/22), Chanelle was not going to school due to reported feelings of anxiety and being bullied. She is now enrolled in Buller's Wood School for Girls. The new academic year has not started off well for her and she continued to refuse to attend due to feelings of anxiety and low mood. The SW informs that as part of encouraging Chanelle to get back into education after such a large gap, she has personally supported Chanelle to successfully attend school for the last two days. The SW attended the family home to support with the morning routine by literally encouraging Chanelle out of bed and on one occasion this took 2 hours.

- ✓ Last visit 07/03/2023
- ✓ Next visit 16/03/2023
- ✓ Last CIN review 21/02/2023
- ✓ Next CIN review 28/03/2023

### Update

Chanelle has started Newstead Wood school for one day and then decided not to go back as she was asked to sit in front of the class in Maths and she is not confident in this subject. Chanelle was asked to answer a question and felt unable to do so and as this was her first day felt overwhelmed. She had been off school for 18-months and we are of the view that this was not discussed with the teacher as the school were unaware of the high level of support she would need. Chanelle suffers with anxiety. Since the last CIN review meeting Tunston school (her primary school) shared that Chanelle has been assessed and diagnosed with social and emotional mental health difficulties. She would need to be supported with this. She did not meet the threshold at the time for an EHCP they did put in place a high level of pastoral support for Chanelle.

Newstead Wood have applied to gateway panel for either a new provision or home tutoring service this was declined, and the recommendation is unknown. This will be further explored in the next CIN review to see what the next steps are as we are worried Chanelle is falling further behind in her education. Gateway panel advised there is very little SENCO information in the referral. A professionals meeting is to be arranged by Newstead Wood to bring all agencies together to share information to refer back to gateway panel.

Martin (dad) has messaged Paulo in regard to Chanelle stealing from a local shop, he was told by another person. He spoke with Chanelle about this, and she said it is her friend T who has stolen. E is another child who is CP with Bromley. T is open to Lewisham. E and Chanelle attended Christ Church together and it is unknown how they know T. E's mother has been alleged to have bought cannabis for E and T. T has been going out stealing with her boyfriend and it is alleged that she is sexually active.

Paulo has contacted Lewisham and they could not find T's details on file. Paulo has made a referral to strengthening families and talking teens for Catherine (mum) to attend. Both Catherine and Martin (dad) would like Chanelle in education. EWO is involved for Stacey, and we feel that the family need support to encourage good attendance and to address any issues for Stacey.

There have been no concerns shared for Carlton and he has good attendance, he is on occasion late. He is academically behind and is supported in school. Carlton is using devices and will want to go on them over doing homework. Parenting programmes would help parents develop good routines and to set boundaries.

Samantha and Chanelle had an argument at the weekend and Martin offered either of them to visit. They usually get on well and this is not a regular occurrence. Chanelle smokes vapes. Samantha has good attendance at school and there are no concerns. She is currently applying for 6th form college.

### **Stacey views**

Stacey does not want to go to school and has messaged Paulo to speak with her. She is having issues with peers in school and is finding maths and science difficult. School have offered to move her class and parents need to be on board with this.

### **Carlton's views**

Carlton feels his older siblings keep him awake at night and make it difficult for him to sleep.

### **Samantha views**

Paulo discussed closing Samantha's case as she is doing well and is happy for this. Paulo will speak with Samantha and parents about this next week. Samantha would like to do hair and beauty at college and as a future career.

### **Chanelle's views**

Chanelle would like to go back to school and would like someone to go with her in the mornings. Martin takes Stacey two days per week; mother takes Carlton to school.

## **Reflections**

The previous school Christ Church did not share information with the new school which would have supported Chanelle, and this is likely to have impacted on her returning to school now and in the future. Paulo did email Christ Church prior to Chanelle starting Newstead Wood to share safeguarding and full information so that she can be supported with her anxiety.

Stacey is in year 7 and is seeing Chanelle not going to school and this is likely to be impacting on her attendance.

Paulo has removed a number of points on the CIN plan that were not relevant in the last CIN review meeting. She has made the CIN plan purposeful to the current situations.

Outstanding work is parental education for parents to implement boundaries and Paulo has referred. Bromley Y referral has been completed and Chanelle has been accepted; this could be a 12 to 16 week wait. Chanelle will have mentoring service. Paulo has agreed to support Chanelle meeting the new worker for the first time as she may be anxious.

## **Hypothesis**

We believe that Catherine's mental health and anxiety are impacting on her ability to ensure the children attend school regularly and on time, whilst also affecting her self-esteem. This is resulting in a lack of boundaries and guidance in the home, an example is during a visit Catherine forgot she had sent the the children to the chip shop. We are curious about the extent of Catherine's mental health needs and how this could continue to impact on her parenting of the children if support is not accepted, this worries us as there has been a history of the family not engaging in services. Paulo wants to speak with Catherine about the current Bromley Children's Project webinars she is engaging with and to understand how she is implementing this into her parenting. This will help us have a clearer understanding about her cognitive functioning and for help us consider if a conversation is needed regarding mental health support.

We know Martin continues to have a relationship with the children, however we believe that due to his limited involvement to provide actual and intentional support the demands of parenting are solely on Catherine. Martin has advised Paulo that the children contact him a lot and he is in a new relationship which makes things difficult. He would like the children to rely on him less and Catherine to be more proactive. This confirms this part of our hypothesis.

Carlton is currently being assessed for additional needs by the school and consideration will be given to EHCP once completed. Is this by the educational psychologist? What support is he getting at school?

## **Actions**

**During the next home visit:**

Action Date	Actions	By whom?	Timescale	Progress/Outcomes
09.03.23	Direct work with Stacey, Chanelle, and Carlton to understand what life at home is like for them. This will help us in understanding what should be included in their plan.	Social Worker	<b>2 weeks, 23.03.23</b>	<b>To be reviewed in the next supervision.</b>
09.03.23	Family Group Conference to be explored with Catherine and Martin	Social Worker	<b>2 weeks, 23.03.23</b>	<b>If there is agreement, Social Worker to make referral within 72 hours of parent's agreement.</b>
09.03.23	Review the pastoral support for Chanelle to understand what this looks like and to build in reviews with the school to measure the effectiveness of the support in helping Chanelle to attend regularly and engage in her learning.	Social Worker	<b>1 week, 16.03.23</b>	
09.03.23	Seek update on referrals for strengthening families and talking teens to confirm the start dates so work can be completed with Catherine to encourage attendance.	Social Worker	<b>48 hours, 13.03.23</b>	
09.03.23	Ask Newstead Wood for the date of the Gateway panel and professionals' meetings and if possible, can this be combined with the next child in need meeting to prevent	Social Worker	<b>48 hours, 13.03.23</b>	

	Catherine attending multiple meetings.			
09.03.23	Exploration with Chanelle regarding the relationship with T as we need to consider the influences and potential risks of this relationship.	Social Worker	<b>2 weeks, 23.03.23</b>	
09.03.23	Are parents on board with Stacey changing maths and science classes to a level that is more suitable?	Social Worker	<b>2 weeks, 23.03.23</b>	

### Analysis & Reflections

Catherine's anxieties are a worry, and it is positive that she is now willing to engage with therapeutic support as previously she has not, so this is good progress and will certainly help the plan progress. We still need to know more about Catherine's mental health and through the relationship building conversations we should have a better sense of this by the next supervision. In addition, Catherine is a single mother, and she is trying to meet the needs of each child, but sometimes this proves difficult. We want to help Catherine reach out to family and friends to explore what support they could offer her. I am of the view a Family Group Conference (FGC) should be explored with both parents, which will help them co-create a plan that they can take ownership off.

Chanelle needs support with her anxiety to go to school and we need to know from teaching and pastoral staff at Newstead Wood how they intend to support her. The school have a responsibility to provide Chanelle support for her to access her education. We will be suggesting to the school that they may want to consider a reduced timetable and a mentor to help Chanelle transition to the school routine, particularly the mornings. Chanelle would like to go to school, and this is evident in social work visits where she speaks positively about school.

### Progress of Plan

- Catherine is engaging with the Social Worker and the schools which is positive, and this is helping the plan to progress.
- Paulo is building a relationship with the children. Samantha and Carlton have no presenting issues and there are no concerns. Paulo will explore with Catherine, Samantha, and Carlton to consider closing their case at the next CIN review meeting.
- There are clearly issues for Chanelle with her mental health and it is positive she has agreed to be supported with this. Paulo will speak with Newstead Wood

to see what support they can offer to try to get Chanelle back in school and a gateway referral so that she can access education and not fall further behind.

- An FGC would enable the network to support all children and Catherine to implement boundaries and bedtime routines and to involve Martin more in the care of the children.

**Date Case Supervision Completed:** 10-Mar-202