

Reason for Contact:

Was the visit planned? Yes, the visit was planned.

Purpose of the visit: This visit was to explore Chanelle's wishes and feeling about her not being in education, the text that her Martin (father) had shared with me about her stealing and Stacey not going into school and establish what support can be offered by her family.

Detailed notes:

Views of the children:

When I asked Stacey what has changed for her not to go into school, she shrugged her shoulders. I reminded her of our conversation that we had earlier that week and she informed me that she was having issues with friends and that the school offered to move her to a different class, but she was not sure. Stacey shared she is also finding science and maths challenging and at the moment does not want to go to school at all. Stacey did not want to talk about it further and I could see that it was making her visibly upset so I thought it best to pause and continue this conversation at another time.

Chanelle shared that she wanted to try a part-time timetable and she was open to doing work that the school send home for her if I ask them. She agreed to start waking up earlier so that she can start doing school work at 10am for 2 hours, until I find out if the school can provide work to be sent to her.

Chanelle informed me that the difficulty that she will experience going to school will be in the mornings having a panic attack in social situations. I asked her what if she went earlier in the day to the breakfast club. Chanelle expressed that she was waking up earlier then she used to, however there are days that she continues having difficulties sleeping and she will wake up later these days.

Chanelle shared that she has been socialising with her friends ES and TL. Chanelle alleges that ES's mother has been buying ES and TL cannabis which they smoke. Chanelle alleged that TL and ES has a Social Worker and TL lives with her grandmother as she was removed from her mother's care. I informed her that this was not the first time that she had mentioned people that she knew that smoked cannabis. I asked her if she smoked cannabis, and she said no but has vaped (electronic cigarette).

Chanelle's father brought up the information that he had shared with me about Chanelle stealing in shops. Chanelle said that it was TL and her boyfriend T that go out stealing. When they went to the Nugent retail park, and they had told her that they were going to shop lift she did not go with them and said she will meet them after. Chanelle said she does not agree with stealing and made a decision not to be part of it. Chanelle also shared that TL has been sexually active with 9 people.

Update and views of the parent:

Martin (dad) expressed his keenness for Stacey to get back into education. Martin was frustrated with Stacey being out of school. he was worried that she was missing out on a lot of education which means that it will impact on her future.

He also shared that Chanelle has been socialising with children that have been stealing, which he is worried about. Martin expressed the risks that are affiliated with Chanelle stealing from the shops as well as getting in trouble with the police.

Martin shared that he will be going on holiday on Saturday until Tuesday however has spoken to his manager, and he will be picking up Stacey from home to go to school tomorrow, Thursday and Friday and will continue to support.

Charlotte shared that she has to take Carlton to school then take Stacey to school (when she can get her to go) and things are progressively getting very challenging as she does not have time for herself. Charlotte shared that Stacey usually gets picked up by a friend however this friend hasn't been attending because Stacey has not been getting ready on time and she was getting to school late. Charlotte also mentioned that there is another friend, and their mother drives them to school and what she has to do is get to the end of the road by 7:30am so that she can join them on the car ride to school however Stacey has not been doing this. Stacey also has the 'attendance lady' that comes to get her to support her attendance. Martin shared that he would book an appointment for Stacey and Chanelle in relation to their anxiety with the GP.

Progress of the CIN/CP plan:

Chanelle has shared her views about getting into school and she wants to go to school but finds it difficult to go alone in the mornings. Gateway referral has been made by the school to explore alternative education. Chanelle is open to have a revised timetable. Progress is happening.

Stacey has shared that she does not want to go into school, and we are exploring alternative ways for her to receive an education. Progress on this is limited.

Charlotte and Martin are aware that it's their parental responsibility to get the children into school. Both parents understand the important of the children's education and value education. They are using the strategies advised and are persevering, both parents accept that there will not be a change overnight.

Observations of the home/children/parent:

Carlton was seen sitting on the sofa fully clothed in his uniform including his shoes and holding his mother's phone as well as his Nintendo switch in the other hand. Nobody spoke to Carlton, and he was in the background of the conversations using the devices.

There were no concerns that were raised about the family home and environment, all rooms were explored, and each room was clean and tidy, there were no signs of health, safety issues or neglect.

In the conversations between Martin and Chanelle you could see that Martin was highly frustrated with Chanelle not being in education properly and Chanelle was also frustrated that Martin didn't understand where she was coming from.

Chanelle was able to openly share her difficulties that she was experiencing in relation to getting into school and her emotions during the home visit in relation to her anxiety in social spaces. Martin had agreed to take Chanelle into school on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday but he will be going away over the weekend until next week Tuesday to Spain and then he'll continue to try and take her two days during the week.

Stacey initially didn't want Martin to be inside the room where we were having conversations in respect of her non-attendance. Stacey's presentation can come across as her being shy and not quite knowing what to say. I think it's positive that both Martin and Charlotte highlighted that Stacey may be following in the similar footsteps as Chanelle as she is not refusing to go into school.

Analysis of information

I was able to have discussions with Stacey and Chanelle in respect of their school based anxiety and attendance. I think it's positive that Martin and Charlotte continue to support Stacey with getting into school. There seems to be a plan created within the family to support Stacey to continue to attend school and there has been a gateway referral made for Chanelle to explore next steps.

It sounds like the school are supporting Stacey with getting into school. I have expressed to the family that I am worried about who Chanelle is socialising with however I think it's positive that she has not joined her friends to shoplift. I think it's also positive that Martin expressed the impact this could have on her now and in the near future if she is arrested.

I also expressed that I was worried about the behaviours that she had highlighted around her friends, where she had made an allegation that her friends mum had bought her daughter and her friend cannabis.

Action

- Charlotte/Martin to contact school and ask for a learning timetable for Chanelle, which includes when they will send work and return dates for marking and feedback.
- Martin to make an appointment with the GP for Chanelle and Stacey to be seen to discuss their anxiety and for the GP to advise on the best way to manage this aspect of their health.
- Reflect with Stacey's teacher and Stacey on the strategies that can be used to encourage Stacey to attend school. Also, explore how Stacey can be supported with maths and science as these are the subjects, she finds most difficult and affects her confidence.
- Chanelle mentioned a friend having active sexual relationships, at the next home visit I will explore with Chanelle if she has previously been or if she is currently in a sexual relationship. I will complete work around safe and healthy relationships.
- On Martin returning from holiday explore with him how he can be more involved day-to-day to help Charlotte and alleviate some of the parenting pressures on her.

- I will explore with the Youth Justice Service if they could attend a home visit with me to speak with Chanelle about the consequences of associating with people who commit offences and the risks this poses to her by just being present.
- An updating child and family assessment to be completed as the children have been open to Children's Social Care for almost a year, the assessment to reflect on strengths, areas for development, progress made and what needs to happen.