

Initial Assessment From Social Services By Paul Coleman Social Worker

Assessment Commenced 24th April 2015



Initial Assessment

Details of subject(s), family and involved professional(s)

An Initial Assessment is defined as a brief assessment of each child referred to children's social care with a request for services to be provided. This should be undertaken within a maximum of **7 working days** from the date of referral but could be very brief depending on the child's circumstances. In completing this Initial Assessment, if it is known that a Core Assessment will be required, social work staff should make a professional judgment about whether it is necessary to complete all sections before beginning a Core Assessment.

Details of all subject child(ren) / young person(s)

Name	DOB / EDD	Gender	Disability	Address	Ethnicity	Religion
Pippa McGeown	01/08/2011	Female		1 Newton Cottages Weobley Hereford HR4 8QX		
Freya McGeown		Female		1 Newton Cottages Weobley Hereford HR4 8QX		

Communication needs (including language)

None identified.

Any information regarding legal status / immigration status

None identified.

Family / household composition and significant others

Name	DOB / EDD	Gender	Parental responsibility	Address	Ethnicity	Religion
Meg McGeown	29/11/1971	Female	Yes - Mother	1 Newton Cottages Weobley Hereford HR4 8QX	White	Not stated
James McGeown		Male	Yes - Father	1 Newton Cottages Weobley Hereford HR4 8QX	White	Not stated

Communication needs (including language)

None identified.

Any information regarding legal status / immigration status

None identified.

Professional relationships

Name	Designation	Agency	Telephone number(s)	Person working with	Contributed
Louise Lewis	Dilwyn Playgroup	As above	0779267332	Meg (Mother)	Yes

If any of the above have not contributed to the assessment please state reason

Assessment start date

23/04/2015

Date worker commenced assessment

24/04/2015

Background information and reason for Initial Assessment

Have the family given their consent to this assessment?

Yes No Not applicable

If 'no' or 'not applicable' please state reason

Have the family given consent to contacting and sharing information with other agencies?

Yes No Not applicable

If 'no' or 'not applicable' please state reason

Did a Common Assessment Framework (CAF) lead to this assessment?

Yes No

If yes, what date was the CAF completed

Reason for Initial Assessment, including views of child(ren) / young person(s) and parent(s) / carer(s)

Communicate your specific concerns as to how the child's health and development are being adversely affected by the issues that are causing you concern. Include your professional judgement, backed up by an explanation of the evidence which that is based upon including:

What is the foundation/evidence for your concerns and how and why has the concerns arisen?

What appear to be the needs of the children? And what appear to be the needs of the family?

I have just taken over as Play leader on the 20th March. I have just been on my Level 5 Safegusrding course on Monday 20th April during the Course i mentioned my concerns to Alison Murphy and Deborah Ball Course Tutors they told me to Ring LADO which i did on Tuesday 21st I also Informed Ofsted by Email. I was contacted by a member of MASH on Wednesday but as i wasn't at work as setting closed. I was asked to fill out a referral from so you had Megans Daughters details.

The incident. we had a parent volunteer (Megan) on placement she was studying towards her level 3 at Ludlow college.

on the 13th March Megan got angry with a child and she felt she wanted to hit him, she told the manager at the time. she didn't hit him but the thought was there.

looking back at her record she had hit her own child (Pippa) in the setting in September 2014, she was reprimanded at the time and told the behaviour was unacceptable. I think the manager thought the training for level 3 would help her understand how to deal with children's behaviour.

A meeting was held with her College tutor on the 17th March. at the meeting Megan showed no remorse for her thoughts and said she couldn't say she wouldn't hit a child if she became angry with them. She was offered Parenting Classes or Angry Councilling which she took offence to. The college made the decision to remove her from the course and she was told that she could no longer volunteer at playgroup

Megan is quite a fiery character and has had quite fierce confrontations with a Teacher at Freya's School and a parent in the playground. Megan regulary handles her children quite roughly in front of people. Jim(James) is a calming influence on Megan and i have never witnessed any ill treatment from Jim.

My concern is that Megan is not suitable to work with Children

Information given in confidence

Tick if the child(ren) / young person(s) have been seen as part of this Initial Assessment

This section was blanked out on the copy of this document received from my Data Protection Act, Subject Access Request. The original referrals are withheld under section 30 DPA.

As this information was provided in the copy of the Multi-Agency Referral Form obtained from Dilwyn Playgroup using a Subject Access Request. I have inserted it again.

Date(s) child(ren) / young person(s) and family member(s) seen / consulted

Date of visit	Child seen	Child seen alone	Family member(s) consulted
06/05/2015	Freya McGeown	Yes	Mother and Father
06/05/2015	Pippa McGeown	Yes	Mother and Father

Summary of background information / past history

Family not previously known to Herefordshire Children's services

Child(ren) / young person(s) developmental needs

1. Health

No concerns identified.

2. Education

No concerns identified.

3. Emotional and behavioural development: Self care skills

Freya is a bright and active child. It is clear that there is a good level of engagement with both children and the children are spoken to age appropriately.

Both children can demonstrate some autonomy in terms of self care skills, but are ultimately dependent on their care givers.

4. Identity and social presentation

Pippa was quiet and reserved during my home visit but this was made more evident by Freya's vibrant personality. It is clear based on the children's shared bedroom and toys in the living room and the way that parents encouraged the children to speak and interact that the children are integral to the family unit.

Father has a self employed business as home so can see the children more than people who have away from home work commitments.

Both children were well kempt - no concerns identified.

5. Family and social relationships

The couple moved from Birmingham a few years ago and enjoy life in rural Herefordshire.

The children have friends at school whom they socialise with. Due to the rural location of the home, their friends are not within close proximity.

Parent(s) / carer(s) capacity to respond appropriately to child(ren) / young person(s) needs

1. Basic care

There are concerns expressed by the playgroups that Mother Meg has a temper and reverts to physical chastisement too readily.

I would agree with the playgroups concerns. During the interview Mother stated that she does have a temper and has struggled with the transition from her former career working as an assistant on the trains to child care.

I note that Mother was nervous during my interview with her, but I did find that she struggled to listen and will often interject and this may be construed as not heeding advice by others. I pointed this out to Mother.

Meg has been to see the GP re her anger which she believes is due to hormonal imbalances due to the menopause. The doctor has suggested anger management books for her to look at which she has and possibly anger management counselling which Meg will give due consideration to.

A Local Authority Designated Officer is currently in place for Meg due to the concerns expressed by the Dilwyn Playgroup.

No concerns noted in respect of James' ability to respond.

2. Ensuring safety

as above

3. Emotional warmth

No concerns identified. Both parents displayed emotional warmth towards the children and reciprocity noted.

However, Meg must consider alternative modes of discipline instead of physical chastisement.

4. Stimulation

The children share a bedroom.

The bedroom is age appropriately adorned with toys, books and clean bedding.

Pippa used to attend the playgroup at which Meg was on placement as a student child care worker.

5. Guidance and boundaries

Please see 'Parent(s) / carer(s) capacity to respond appropriately to child(ren) / young person(s) needs.'

6. Stability

No concerns identified.

Issues affecting parent(s) / carer(s) capacity to respond appropriately to the child(ren) / young person(s) needs

Please see above.

Family and environmental factors which impact on the child(ren) / young person(s)

1. Family history and functioning

Mother is currently under investigation from the LADO after the playgroup has reported her. She may not be deemed suitable to work in child care, although this has not yet been decided upon.

There are no previous CSC records prior to the current contact.

2. Social resources: wider family, community resources and social integration

The family can drive and have access to local amenities and social networks.

Given their rural location this is important for the children's use of local resources.

3. Housing

No concerns identified.

Home conditions were very good. The children share a bed room with an upper and lower bunk bed.

Clean bedding was noted.

4. Employment and income

Father works self employed at home in his workshop, which is an outbuilding of the property.

Mother is studying child care at Ludlow college and is awaiting a LADO hearing before determining whether she should continue (if allowed) with her study.

Analysis, recommendations and decisions

Analysis

In light of further information from Pippa's school who rang the MASH to express concerns that Pippa has bruising to her arm and leg when she went swimming with the school on 14/05/15, the case destination for this Initial assessment has changed from closure to a child in need plan.

I undertook a home visit to the address and initially only Jim (Father) was present. I informed him of the concerns. He was agitated and when Meg and Pippa subsequently arrived home he would not initially look at Pippa marks to her arm and leg. As there was no disclosure by Pippa that she was grabbed by her mother or father, this was not a section 47 enquiry. Pippa told me when alone that her friend in school grabbed her for the small bruises on her arms, or she may have caught her arm on the way into her Father's car and she was unsure as to how she occurred her bruises to the leg.

It was agreed that the parents would take Pippa for a non child protection medical to their local practice and Heather Manning from the MASH prioritised this appointment.

However, following my departure a strategy meeting took place by the EDT team and a child protection took place on Saturday at Hereford Hospital, after the cp medical was requested on the Friday.

The findings are below:

Summary:

- Pippa has been seen by a Social worker today (myself)
- In addition, she has been seen by a GP (local) who has expressed that he is 'not suspicious' about the concerns to the Paediatrician.
- Father reports that they were keen for Pippa to see a GP to resolve the concerns around bruising.
- Confusion over what bruises have been observed and on which arm, this will need clarification during the medical.
- Pippa is now in bed and settled. No concerns raised about Pippa's presentation when she was seen by GP.
- There have been now two concerns around mother's chastisement of Pippa from the nursery, and another concern which was not reported until afterwards.

Paediatrician Dr S Meyrick concluded in his cp medical report (see documents) that he "cannot find a pattern of bruising that would concern me". and that the bruises to the arm are consistent with Pippa's disclosure that she was grabbed by a friend in school.

On this basis therefore, I do not view any concerns to be of a child protection nature, but there are concerns about mother's views on chastisement and a family worker would be beneficial in this respect.

The children's voice are to be heard as part of the home environment.

Recommendations

Practitioner's recommendations

Core assessment and CIN plan

Family worker to work with Mother on appropriate levels of chastisement.

Voices of the children to be heard about the home environment.

If no further action, should a CAF delivery plan and review be considered?

Yes

No

Comments, complaints and compliments leaflet

Provided to family

Date _____

Copy of Assessment

Provided to family

Date _____

Feedback on original referral

Given to referrer

Date _____

Social worker

Name

Date

Paul Coleman

08/05/2015

Parent(s) / carer(s) and significant other(s)' views / response to issues raised

The parents would like a copy of my initial assessment following it's completion. Initially, Father Jim was of the view that my involvement was at the level of a Section 47 enquiry. I clarified that my involvement is currently only on a voluntary basis and not at the level of Section 47 Child Protection enquiries.

Child(ren) / young person(s)' views / response to issues raised

Freya states that she is very happy at home and talked about how much she likes school.

Pippa was less communicative but showed me her bedroom and pointed to the bottom bunk bed as to where she sleeps.

Manager's decision

Decision

Case previously put through for closure then a further incident was reported when Pippa's school rang the MASH to express concerns that Pippa has bruising to her arm and leg when she went swimming with the school on 14/05/15. Pippa made no allegation against any adult and her GP had a medical undertaken that raised no concerns. Mother is subject to a LADO investigation and concerns are around inappropriate chastisement and mother's views on parenting and discipline generally therefore a core assessment is needed to further explore the family functioning and some parenting work to be carried out with both parents.

Wishes and feelings work to be carried out with both children.

Name

Date this Initial Assessment was completed

Mash Duty Manager

02/06/2015

If any of the children have not been seen during the course of this assessment, please confirm reason(s)

Assessment reopened and updated following new information being received.

Has this Assessment been completed in the correct timescales?

Yes

No

If the assessment has not been completed within the timescales, please select a reason why

The child(ren) / young person(s) is a child in need as defined in the Children Act 1989

Name	Is a child / young person in need?	Child in need category

Confirmation and Authorisation

Parental/Child factors at assessment

Any child and parent risk factors identified at assessment should be indicated below - multiple factors can be selected

Child

- | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emotional abuse | <input type="checkbox"/> Neglect | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Physical Abuse | <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual Abuse | <input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol misuse |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child sexual exploitation | <input type="checkbox"/> Domestic Violence | <input type="checkbox"/> Drug misuse | <input type="checkbox"/> Gangs | <input type="checkbox"/> Learning Disability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health | <input type="checkbox"/> Missing | <input type="checkbox"/> Physical disability or illness | <input type="checkbox"/> Privately fostered | <input type="checkbox"/> Self Harm |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Socially unacceptable behaviour | <input type="checkbox"/> Trafficking | <input type="checkbox"/> UASC | <input type="checkbox"/> Young Carer | |

Parent/Carer

- | | | | | |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol misuse | <input type="checkbox"/> Domestic Violence | <input type="checkbox"/> Drug misuse | <input type="checkbox"/> Learning Disability | <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Physical Disability or illness | | | | |

Other family / household member

- | | | | | |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol misuse | <input type="checkbox"/> Domestic Violence | <input type="checkbox"/> Drug Misuse | <input type="checkbox"/> Learning Disability | <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Physical disability or illness | | | | |

General

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> No factors identified | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
|--|--------------------------------|