

Case Study – Inner Strengths

Please note that this case study is fictional and has been written purely to illustrate to Members a potential scenario in which the various programmes put in place to address domestic abuse might be have an impact.

History

Father was born in Scotland and lived with his parents. Father reports that he was close to his parents but was witness to lots of violence from his father to his mother until they separated. He reports he was involved in gang violence from a young age. Father commented that he also witnessed his father being seriously assaulted by males that came into the property. He also reported that he witnessed an uncle murder a woman in the house where he was sleeping and he had to get his siblings out of the property.

Father moved to Blackpool as a young person with his mother, he was in and out of educational settings due to his violence, aggression and behaviour.

He started in a relationship with Mother early, he felt initially the relationship was positive, Mother had five children from a previous relationship and they had a child together. He reports that Mother has had a previous domestic abuse relationship.

Due to both parties drinking alcohol and spending all their time with each other, arguments started which led to violence. He stated that initially violence was both ways however this escalated to him instigating the violence as a way of stopping the arguments. He stated he has not been violent in previous relationships

Father was referred onto the inner strength perpetrator programme by the children's social worker due to the violence and domestic abuse in his relationship with Mother.

Inner Strengths

Father attended all but one of the sessions, this was due to sickness. Throughout the course he contributed and encouraged other group members to participate in discussions about their offending behaviour. He was frank about his experiences and how offending had impacted on his life as well as his relationships with his children and partner.

Due to the honest opinions that he provided and progress made it was appropriate for him to attend a meeting to discuss the progress of the course in regard to what was working well and what was not.

He came to the meeting and discussed the impact that the Inner Strengths course has had on him with professionals and strategic managers. He advised that due to his attitude previously he wouldn't have attended the course and felt that he needed to be in a place

where he was ready to make changes. Father reported that he felt he could now realise the impact of his behaviour on his relationships not just with his partner and children but also with professionals that work with the family.

He was in the initial stages of the programme and was negative about the children's social worker and what he initially perceived as delay in the case progressing regarding his and his partner's children. As the Inner Strengths course continued he was able to understand and acknowledge that the reason for delay was his behaviour and attitude towards professionals. As the course progressed he started to work closely and openly with the social worker, allowing assessments to be completed. Following assessments completed by Children's Social Care, Father is now having contact with the children and the family continue to receive support but have been stepped down to a child in need plan. Parents continue to be in a relationship but currently live separately whilst supporting the children together.

Following the programme

Following the course Father has attended voluntary drop in sessions set up by the first cohort following the course finishing. There have been no reported police incidents involving domestic abuse between both parties since the course has finished. He has consistently reported that he has found the course useful and has offered to come back and speak with the second cohort about his experiences, what he found useful and what has worked for him.