

MAKING IT REAL FOR YOUNG CARERS

NEW RIGHTS FOR YOUNG CARERS

CASE STUDY EXERCISE

Case Study 1

A fifteen year old young girl called Jenny lives with her mum in the local area.

Mum suffers from episodes of depression and at these times will often take to her bed, often up to a couple of days at a time. When Mum starts to feel low she will start to drink and at these times can become verbally abusive. Mum has in the past been involved with the Community Mental Health Recovery Team, although at this time is refusing to engage with the service. Jenny often is left to look after herself, which includes cooking her own meals and doing the weekly shopping.

The school have raised concerns with regards to Jenny as she has now only attended school for 60 % of the time and when she is at school she seems to be struggling with the work. It has also been observed that Jenny is keeping to herself and in the class can be disruptive and has been involved in fights with other pupils.

The school have tried to arrange to talk with Mum although have found it difficult to get hold of her, as well as offering Jenny counselling at the school which Jenny has refused.

Questions to think about in your group:

- 1. What does the law say we should be doing to support this young carer?**
- 2. Who from which organisation needs to do what?**

Case Study 2

Millie is aged 13 and lives with her mother and younger brother Adam. Adam is 11 years old and has been diagnosed with Autism and severe learning difficulties. He attends a special school. Susie is very fond of her brother and has willingly helped look after him on many occasions over the years, particularly during the school holidays when her mother has had to work. Her grandmother used to help in the past but has been unwell recently and is now no longer able to do so.

As Adam has grown older his behaviour has become more challenging. He will hit Millie or pull her hair if he can't get his own way and tries to bite her. Millie has become quite frightened of Adam but is worried that her mother may lose her job if she has to stay at home to look after him.

Millie doesn't see her friends much during the holidays because she has to look after Adam. She is worried that if she invites friends to her house, Adam may try to hurt them.

Questions to think about in your group:

- 1. What does the law say we should be doing to support this young carer?**
- 2. Who from which organisation needs to do what?**

Case Study 3

Billy is a 5 year old boy who lives with his parents. His father has neuropathy as a result of diabetes and over the past year has experience a marked deterioration in his mobility. He is currently wheelchair dependent and is reliant upon the support of his wife who also deals with the school run along with working full time.

Billy assists his father by fetching and bringing drinks when his mum is out. He will also do more to help himself than an average 5 year old would, due to Mum and Dad being less able to dedicate time to their parental roles.

On a Saturday, Dad is at home alone with Billy all day while Mum is at work. Billy gets bored as dad cannot take him out and has difficulty entertaining him at home on his own. On one occasion Billy let himself out of the flat to play with his friends which caused a lot of worry. Billy has also on occasion attempted to prepare hot drinks and food which worries Mum and Dad.

Mum works long hours as the family bread winner. When at home she has to divide her attention between caring for her husband and being a mum. She describes feeling very stressed. The main area of assistance the family have identified at the moment is support with the school run. This would help ensure Billy gets to school and would relieve some of the burden from Mum. Billy's school is six miles away as the family live in a remote area.

Questions to think about in your group:

1. What does the law say we should be doing to support this young carer?

2. Who from which organisation needs to do what?