

REFERRAL FOR CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

Name; Alexis Prowse Date of Birth 05-02-94
Address; 56 B Seaton Terrace 59 B.
Irvine
Ayrshire, KA22 0SS
Legislation: Section 70 (3) Children's (Scotland) Act 1995.
With a Condition of residence.
Social Worker: Kate Fitzsimmons Telephone No. 01294 324800
Bridgegate House.
Irvine

In 1991, Alexis Prowse along with her 3 siblings was registered under the category of 'at risk of sexual abuse' and they were placed on Home Supervision Orders under Section 44(1)(a) of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968.

The reasons for this was that;-

Mr Prowse (Alexis' father) had two daughters from his first marriage. He applied for and gained custody of his own two daughters when his divorce was granted in 1981. After the failure of this marriage he established a relationship with another woman, who had 3 daughters and he married his new partner the following 1982.

It appears that they had a stable marital relationship caring for the 5 girls whilst travelling for agricultural work. In 1984, one of Mr Prowse's biological daughters was tragically killed in a road accident and this appears to have provoked his confession to incestuous relationships with his 3 stepdaughters over a number of years. He received a two-year imprisonment for these offences and his biological daughter was returned to her mother's care.

Brief Description of Family History:

Previous Social Services records indicate that Mr Prowse had an abusive and problematic childhood and had served a custodial sentence for a sexual assault by the time he was 19 years.

He has been married twice before establishing a relationship, following his release from prison with his third partner Alexis' mother - Lorraine Townsley in 1986. She came from a travelling family and had spent her childhood travelling between various travelling sites in Renfrewshire, before moving to the island of Arran when she was 10 years old.

The two older children, Laura and Kelly, were born whilst the family lived on Arran. They left the island in 1989, travelling repeatedly while Mr Prowse sought agricultural work in various locations throughout Britain. Duncan was born in Wales and the family returned to the Strathclyde area in 1991.

Although the children had been the subjects of numerous Child Protection investigations, their names had not been placed on the Child Protection Register.

until 1991, when they were registered under the category of 'at risk of sexual abuse' and were placed on Home Supervision Orders under Section 44(1)(a) of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968.

During this time, the family moved to various towns and addresses within North Ayrshire before moving to the Perthshire area later in the year.

Their names were transferred to the local Child Protection Register and their Supervision Orders transferred to the relevant Children's Hearing Reporter's Department. They remained in the area for approximately 11 years and Alexis was born there.

Alexis and her three older siblings - (Laura 19 years; Kelly 18 years and Duncan 17 years) were removed from their parents' care in 1999 as their father was a Schedule One offender. Their mother was unable to parent them appropriately because of her problematic alcohol usage and general lifestyle difficulties and violence within her relationship with Mr Prowse.

Alexis' parents appear to have had a violent and tempestuous relationship and it would appear that the siblings were subjected to witnessing much of the domestic violence.

Initially the sibling group were placed together in a small Children's unit which was dedicated to their sole care before being placed as a sibling group with experienced and committed carers. Unfortunately this placement was terminated when the male carer sadly died.

The sibling group were then placed as a group with new foster carers but one by one this placement broke down and each child was accommodated in Local Authority Children's Units.

Alexis was the last of the siblings to leave this placement. At the time she was totally devastated and as the breakdown was through no fault of her own, an enquiry was held into the breakdown of the siblings' placement with these foster carers and following this the carers were subsequently de-registered.

Alexis' older siblings all now live out with the care system in independent accommodation and out with the Irvine Area. They all maintain contact with Alexis and have unlimited contact with her although face to face contact is somewhat limited because of their own individual locations and circumstances. More recently Alexis sister Laura had had a baby - Kyran - who Alexis has only seen once.

When Alexis' foster placement broke down, she was placed in the same Children's Unit as her brother Duncan. This softened the blow for Alexis and provided her with support and comfort as Alexis and Duncan have always been close.

However in September 2006, Duncan moved out of the unit into independent accommodation at the time he had also secured full time employment at a 'garage'. Initially this did not appear to cause Alexis any distress and she appeared to enjoy visiting Duncan in his new home.

However eventually Duncan decided to leave his employment in Irvine and work with his father. After a short time he also decided to move in and live with his father in Motherwell.

Nevertheless Duncan has continued to maintain regular contact with Alexis and also makes regular visits to see her. Alexis has always been very close to her brother and his initial move to Motherwell seemed to hit her hard.

Mr Prowse is again in another relationship and has moved in with his new partner and her teenage daughter. Duncan is also living with the family. Mr Prowse and his new partner have set a date for their marriage for 15th March this year and Alexis will be attending the event. However Alexis is very jealous of Mr Prowse's partner's daughter who he talks about constantly, as well as his interference between her and her siblings. This reached a crisis point recently and a meeting was held in the Social work office so that Alexis could voice her feelings to her father in a safe and controlled environment.

After a very frank and at times contentious discussion during which Alexis eloquently voiced her feelings to her father it was agreed that;

- Supervised parental Contact would be only between Alexis and her father.
- He would not discuss his partner's children except in a very superficial manner if the topic could not be avoided – with him realising that this distresses Alexis as she wants her contact to be with her father.
- That Mr Prowse would not try to arbitrate in arguments between Alexis and her siblings. They would be left to sort out their differences without being subject to the historic family dynamics

There have also been some other events within the unit, which appear to have had a distressing effect upon Alexis. One of which is that a young man, very near to her own age, moved in to the unit late last year and was allocated a foster placement within a few months. At this time Alexis was still asking for a foster placement.

Whilst this young man's individual circumstances were not known to Alexis, it made her feel that she had little hope of being allocated a foster placement, despite it being recognised that to meet her long term needs she requires a foster placement. In fact she is now clearly saying she does not want to be fostered because it will only eventually breakdown. All of this appears to have led to an uncharacteristic decline in Alexis' behaviour both in the unit and in school. In fact she has over the few months incurred a number of exclusions from school and has been subject to a meeting with the head of education service Bob Neilly.

Alexis is presenting as a very angry young lady and at both her most recent LAC review and at a school JST it was felt that she would benefit from a consultation with your service. Initially Alexis was not receptive to this idea but is now saying she would like to be referred.

Health

Alexis has no reported health concerns and she is up to date with her immunisation program. She attends the dentist regularly and has recently had her brace removed.

Alexis enjoys a varied diet and responds, like many teenagers, to her likes and dislikes. She enjoys physical activity; partaking in sports and the outdoor life.

Education:

Alexis' Guidance Teacher at St Andrew's Academy reports that Alexis is a very capable pupil and academically continues to progress well however more recently she has demonstrated some uncharacteristic unruly behaviour. The Guidance Teacher informs that Alexis has become more headstrong and reacts too quickly to situations.

Her current school report suggests that although Alexis is academically bright she may not be placed within a top class if she continues to display her recent negative behaviour and 'don't care' attitude within school.

The school have voiced concerns that Alexis seems to be a young girl displaying a lot of anger, which is concerning. Alexis is at present using a mood card system so that she can take 'time out' when she feels anger or out of control. However she has used this as an excuse to truant from school. The school are still supporting Alexis and have arranged a ½ day placement for her to supplement her more formal education.

Emotional and Behavioural Development:

Alexis is turning into a lovely young lady she can be mannerly, polite and present herself well. She is confident in asserting her views and opinions in a variety of areas.

More recently Alexis has become uncharacteristically challenging and 'angry' this would appear to coincide with recent events within Alexis' life which have had a negative effect upon her behaviour in certain situations. Most especially within the school and unit environment where she has become uncharacteristically difficult and rebellious. However Alexis does to some extent appear to be able to control her attitude and can be selective in what situations she demonstrates 'attitude'.

Alexis' family politics can be very complex and given the issues of her parents and the physical distances that separates the areas that her siblings live in, most information exchange tends to be via mobile telephones. Which can lead to all sorts of the misunderstandings and misinformation. At times Alexis becomes caught up in this and she can react instantly and loudly voice her opinion. This can also have a knock on effect with regards to her moods and behaviour. As both of Alexis' parents can be self obsessed and very much caught up in their own needs this often causes Alexis a lot of stress and makes her feel isolated from her family.

Alexis struggles to come to terms with her feelings of loss and rejection regarding her past life. As well as understand the complexities of her family politics; history and culture and her feelings that she has voiced more recently about her feelings of hopelessness as to her current situation and family isolation.

Family and Social Relationships:

Alexis can at times present as indifferent towards her biological family, however as she gets older she is becoming more involved in the fluid dynamics within her extended family.

Alexis' contact with her father is supervised and monitored to minimise any potential risk he may pose. Although he has been asking for both an increase in contact and for Alexis to have contact at his home. This has been discussed with Alexis and she is very clear that she does not want more contact or unsupervised contact but she is very reluctant to tell her father. At present parental contact takes place on a four weekly basis.

Alexis has not had face to face contact with her mother for some time. In the summer she did visit her at Lochgilphead but her mother has since moved to the Stirling area. However more recently Ms Townsley has been making contact with Alexis by telephone through the unit staff. This again has not always been a positive experience for Alexis.

her mother is habitually heavily under the influence of alcohol and she repeatedly makes inappropriate comments to Alexis, which causes her anxiety and stress.

Identity:

Alexis is appropriately aware of her family background and ethnic roots the reasons why she and her siblings were accommodated. Family dynamics tends to be an ongoing issue in Alexis' maternal and paternal family. Alexis is able to reflect upon her past history and explore her family dynamics and circumstances in more depth. She will often raise issues with the writer about aspects of her family history, which occurred when she was too young to have any memory of them. Often it is recollections of her older siblings, which she will reiterate as a memory of her own.

Alexis is also now slowly becoming more confident to ask her father about her family history but although she is aware of her father's offending history she does not like to be reminded of it and now refuses to read panel reports etc .

Offending has never been an issue for Alexis who has no history of offending and does not associate with any young people who do offend.

Summary and Comments:

Alexis and her siblings were accommodated when Alexis was only 5 years old and slowly one by one her siblings have moved on leaving Alexis feeling isolated. She appears to have a desire to 'belong' and it is possibly this desire, which helped her settle quickly into her two previous foster placements.

It can not be emphasised enough that the break down in both these placements was not of Alexis' making nor any reflection on her behaviour with in the placements. All reports written during these placements document the ongoing positive behaviour and co-operation by Alexis.

More recently both with in the unit and with in the school environment there has been an uncharacteristic decline in Alexis behaviour and it is felt that this can be attributed to a number of specific events which have collectively impacted upon Alexis' emotional well being.

In her previous foster placement and respite placements, it is documented that Alexis did not present as a management problem. It has also been assessed that much of her present uncharacteristic difficult behaviour can be attributed to a number of recent events which has impacted on Alexis' emotional wellbeing and consequently her behaviour.