

Assessment

Section 1: Consent Statement(s)

The Think Family programme wishes to support you and your family by providing the best possible services of support. In order to do this, your information will be shared confidentially with our named partners so that a comprehensive picture can be built through a multi-agency system. Our partner agencies include WSCC, Early Years, Education, Health, Housing, Leisure, Police, Probation, Social Care, Youth Services, Worth Services and the Department for Communities & Local Government. By signing into this programme you are agreeing to the sharing of your information with these agencies involved and any other professional services that are highlighted as being able to assist you. All information will be stored securely and dealt with in a confidential and professional manner. Your information will not be disclosed outside of this program unless there any concerns about the safety or the wellbeing of a child, young person or an adult.

We are committed to working together with other service providers and professionals so that services provided to you best serve your needs.

Consent statement for information storage

Consent Date	08/03/2017	
Consent Granted By	Amy Brown, John Brown	
I agree to the sharing of information between organisations/services working with my family in connection to this assessment. I have read and understood the Privacy Notice.		Yes
I have read the assessment and agree with the information recorded. Add comments below if required.		Yes

Services / practitioners to be invited to the TAF

Comments

Family Signature

Name	Signature	Date

Section 2: Family

Details of current family and home situation

Please provide in the box below, through illustration and/or narrative, details of the family structure including parents/carers, child or other significant adults who live or do not live in the family home.

Jack lives in Chichester with his mum Amy, step dad John and half-sister Lucy.
Jack's biological dad, Michael, also lives in Chichester with his new partner, Emma who has a son, James.
Jack sees his dad occasionally.
Jack's paternal grandmother lives in Worthing and Jack has a good relationship with her.

Details of practitioner undertaking assessment

Training User01, Trainee, Treetop Primary School

Email: none@email.com

Tel: 01273 000000

Child/Young Person 1 - Jack Green

First name	Jack	Surname	Green		
Known as		Previous Surname			
Title		DoB	05/08/2008	Gender	Male
Contact Number	01243 999999	Type	Home	Preferred	No
Email					
Comments	Family landline				
Address	West Sussex County Council, County Hall, West Street, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 1RG			Primary?	Yes
Comments	Housing ABC			Type	Tenant Private
Unique Pupil No.	Z12345				
Framework Number	12345678				
Ethnicity	White (English/ Welsh/ Scottish/ Northern Irish/ British)				
Religion	No Religion				
School	Treetop Primary School				
Immigration Status					
First Language	English				
Condition/Disability	Challenging Behaviour				
Additional Info	Jack is being verbally aggressive at home and in school.				
Special Requirements					

Child/Young Person 2 - Lucy Brown

First name	Lucy	Surname	Brown		
Known as		Previous Surname			
Title		DoB	06/06/2015	Gender	Female
Contact Number	01243 999999	Type	Home	Preferred	No
Email					
Comments	Family landline				

West Sussex Early Help

Brown/Green (41)

Address	West Sussex County Council, County Hall, West Street, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 1RG	Primary?	Yes
Comments	Housing ABC	Type	Tenant Private
Unique Pupil No.	Z12346		
Framework Number	246810		
Ethnicity	White (English/ Welsh/ Scottish/ Northern Irish/ British)		
Religion	No Religion		
School	Treetops Nursery		
Immigration Status			
First Language	English		
Condition/Disability			
Additional Info			
Special Requirements			

Adult 1 - John Brown

First name	John	Surname	Brown		
Known as		Previous Surname			
Title		DoB	02/04/1983	Gender	Male
Contact Number	01243 999999	Type	Home	Preferred	No
Email					
Comments	Family landline				
Address	West Sussex County Council, County Hall, West Street, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 1RG	Primary?	Yes		
Comments	Housing ABC	Type	Tenant Private		
Ethnicity	White (English/ Welsh/ Scottish/ Northern Irish/ British)				
Religion	No Religion				
Immigration Status					
First Language	English				
Condition/Disability	Depression				
Additional Info	John has depression and is currently being prescribed anti-depressants.				
Special Requirements					

Adult 2 - Amy Brown

First name	Amy	Surname	Brown		
Known as		Previous Surname			
Title		DoB	14/07/1986	Gender	Female

West Sussex Early Help

Brown/Green (41)

Contact Number	01243 999999	Type	Home	Preferred	No
Email					
Comments	Family landline				
Address	West Sussex County Council, County Hall, West Street, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 1RG			Primary?	Yes
Comments	Housing ABC			Type	Tenant Private
Ethnicity	White (English/ Welsh/ Scottish/ Northern Irish/ British)				
Religion	No Religion				
Immigration Status					
First Language	English				
Condition/Disability					
Additional Info					
Special Requirements					

Significant Other 1 - Michael Green

First name	Michael	Surname	Green		
Known as			Previous Surname		
Title			DoB	24/09/1985	Gender Male
Contact Number			Type		Preferred
Email					
Comments					
Address					
Type				Comments	
No Fixed Address	No				
Unknown Address	Yes				

Section 3: TAF Members

This page lists all of the people who are or have been involved with supporting family members within this case.

Family Members

Amy Brown	Adult
Jack Green	Child
John Brown	Adult
Lucy Brown	Child

Practitioners

Name	Role	Start Date	End Date
Training User01	Lead Worker	08/03/2017	

Services involved with the family

Family Member(s)	Ongoing?	Service	Practitioner	Start Date	End Date

Section 4: Identification of Needs

This section should be used to identify the current needs/worries of the family. These may change during the life of the case.

Indicator 1 – Crime and Anti-social Behaviour

This family includes ...

0	Children who have had a previous offence (including out of court sanctions) in the last 12 months.
0	Adults with ASB intervention.
0	Children with ASB intervention.
0	Family members in prison with 12 months or less left on their sentence with parenting responsibilities.
0	Adults already subject to licence conditions that have parenting responsibilities.
0	Adult offenders who have parenting responsibilities.
0	Family members where there is a professional concern of further offending.

Indicator 2 – Education

This family includes ...

0	Children who have 15% or more absence for 3 consecutive terms.
0	Children who have 3 or more fixed term exclusions.
0	Children who have been permanently excluded.
0	Children who have alternative provision for behavioural problems.
0	Children neither registered with a school nor being home educated.
0	Children that education professionals are concerned are not receiving a full time education.
0	Children under 5 that are at risk of not being ready to transition into full-time education.

Indicator 3 – Children who need help

This family includes ...

2	Children identified and/or assessed as needing Early Help.
0	Children with a Child In Need or Child Protection Plan.
0	Children Looked After.
0	Children referred by professionals with equivalent concern.
0	Children at risk of cusp of care.
0	Children with caring responsibility.
0	Children with an Education Health & Care Plan.
0	Children (including unborn) impacted by poor attachment and trauma.
0	Children where there is a professional worry of Child Sexual Exploitation.
0	Children who have an emerging pattern of going missing from home.
0	Children where there is a professional worry of Developmental Delay.

Indicator 4 – Work & Benefits

This family includes ...

0	Recipients of out-of-work benefits (pre Universal Credit).
0	Recipients of Universal Credit - subject to a work related condition.

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0	Family members with low educational attainment (risk of becoming NEET).
0	Family members who have left school and are NEET.
0	Family members at risk of homelessness.
0	Family members at risk of financial exclusion.
0	Family members have No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF).

Indicator 5 – Domestic Abuse

This family includes ...

2	Family members with a history, are experiencing, or are at risk of Domestic Abuse.
0	Family members with a history of perpetrating Domestic Abuse.
0	Family members with a history of Domestic Abuse police call outs.

Indicator 6 – Health & Wellbeing

This family includes ...

1	Family members with mental health problems.
1	Children with mental health or emotional wellbeing difficulties.
0	Adults with drug issues with parenting responsibilities.
0	Children with drug issues.
0	Adults with alcohol issues with parenting responsibilities.
0	Children with alcohol issues.
0	New mothers referred from professionals with concerns about mental or physical health.
0	Children with a significant health problem.
0	Adults with a significant health problem or a physical disability.
0	Teenage parents / vulnerable parents of newborn babies.

Section 5: Signs of Safety Conversation

Assessment Information

Meeting Date	08/03/2017
Lead Worker	Training User01

What's going well?

Amy is hoping that the Early Help Plan will bring together the right people to support her family and improve the current situation for everyone.

The family worked with a Family Link Worker just after Lucy was born which is when Jack first started to show signs of aggression at home. They found the strategies they learnt around being consistent and boundary setting very helpful.

Jack's paternal grandmother, Ann, has a good relationship with both Jack and Amy and will offer practical support such as having Jack to stay with her overnight and at weekends in order to give everyone time to cool off.

Jack says that he likes going to school because he has some good friends and he also enjoys attending football club.

Jack's school attendance is good – 98% currently.

John works full time in London.

What are we worried about?

Amy has requested support as she is struggling to manage Jack's aggressive behaviour at home and realises that this is impacting on the whole family and on her relationship with her husband. Amy is worried that Lucy is witnessing Jack's outbursts and has started to copy his behaviour. Amy feels that John does not agree with the way she disciplines Jack and this is causing arguments in the home.

Jack's teacher and support staff are worried because Jack's aggressive behaviour seems to be getting worse in school especially during break times. He is getting very angry with other children following a disagreement, shouting and pushing. Jack has also become more challenging in the classroom and has on two occasions shouted and sworn at support staff. Jack has had one fixed term exclusion (1 day) and two internal exclusions.

Amy and school are worried that if Jack continues to get so angry with his friends, staff and family, he will end up hurting someone and/or himself. This could lead to him being permanently excluded from school which would impact on his learning and possible future life choices.

Amy is worried that Jack's behaviour is causing arguments between her and John and that these are being witnessed by the children. She is worried that Lucy will learn to copy Jack's bad behaviour and that John and Jack will end up not liking each other.

Jack is worried that his Mum and John won't want him to live with them anymore and he will have to go and live with his Nan full-time.

In January 2010 (prior to relationship breakdown) Children's Social Care completed an assessment with the family following a referral from Jack's nursery regarding a disclosure from Amy that Jack had witnessed an argument between her and Michael which "got out of control". The assessment concluded that this was a one off incident following Michael's redundancy and consequence financial stress. Michael agreed to seek support from his GP and Ann was offering practical and financial support to ease the pressure.

Complicating Factors

John has ongoing depression and this is making it harder for him to work with Amy to present Jack with a consistent response/parenting style. John is not actively supporting Amy in her efforts to improve Jack's behaviour and so Amy feels it is all on her shoulders.

Desired outcomes

For Jack to stop feeling so angry that he lashes out at family, friends and school staff. No more incidents that result in Jack being excluded from school. Jack will be making good progress in school with his learning and social skills. For Jack and John's relationship to improve so that Jack feels that he is part of the family and John no longer feels negative towards Jack.

Jack and Lucy will no longer be witnessing arguments between Amy and John. Amy and John will be working together to provide consistent parenting to both children.

West Sussex Early Help**Brown/Green (41)****Actions**

These are immediate next steps to support the family and in preparation for the first Team Around the Family (TAF) meeting.

Family Member(s)	Outcome	Action	Who	When
Jack Green	Jack will have a named person to talk to when he is feeling sad/angry.	Jack to be referred to the learning mentor to work on how to manage his anger.	Training User1	30/04/2016

Working Safely

Case Member Name	Concern	Start Date	End Date
Lucy Brown, John Brown, Amy Brown, Jack Green	None identified.	08/03/2017	N/A

Section 6: Distance Travelled

Distance Travelled

	1	4	7	10	Not An Issue
Education - 'Be able to learn and be ready for school and work...'					
1. Are there any worries about parents / carers engagement in their child's education?					
2. Are there any worries about children's engagement in learning?		✓			
3. Are there any worries about children's school attendance?					
4. Are there any worries about the children's behaviour in school?	✓				
5. Are there any worries about bullying (children & young people)?					
Family Life - 'Families receive the support they need early....'					
6. Are there any worries about relationships between family members/issues with secure attachments?		✓			
7. Are there any worries about caring responsibilities impacting negatively on children within the family?					
8. Are there any worries about boundary setting and discipline?		✓			
9. Are there any worries about family engagement with other professionals or services?					
10. Are there any worries about the availability of family support networks?					
11. Are there any worries about the supervision of children within the family?		✓			
12. Are there any worries about the provision of a stimulating environment for children within the family e.g. age appropriate toys/activities?					
13. Are there any worries about personal hygiene?					
14. Are there any worries that the housing/environment impacts the child's wellbeing?					
Health and Wellbeing - 'Have improved mental and physical health....'					
15. Are there any worries about any children with a conduct disorder in the family?					
16. Are there any worries about engagement with health professionals?					
17. Are there any worries about drugs, substance or alcohol misuse by any of the child/ren in the family?					
18. Are there any worries about drugs, substance or alcohol misuse by any adult in the family?					

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19. Are there any mental health and wellbeing worries affecting any child/ren in the family?					
20. Are there any mental health and wellbeing worries affecting any adult in the family?	✓				
21. Are there any worries about chronic health condition/ disability?					
22. Are there any worries about children meeting speech, language and communication milestones?					
23. Are there any worries about children meeting physical child development milestones?					
24. Are there any worries about a new mother in respect of their mental or physical health?					
Community Life - 'Be part of and contribute to the local community....'					
25. Are there any worries about child/ren engagement in positive activities outside the home?			✓		
26. Are there any worries about children's relationships with peers?		✓			
27. Are there any worries about offending by any family member?					
28. Are there any worries about anti-social behaviour (ASB) by any family member?					
29. Are there any worries about family/individual participating in racial or other discriminatory harassment/intimidation?					
30. Are there any worries about being subject to other intimidation/harassment?					
Domestic Violence or Abuse - 'Be safe and secure....'					
31. Are there any worries about family violence or abusive behaviour (this could be between any members of the family)?			✓		
32. Are there any worries about personal safety for one or more of the family members?					
Social & Financial Independence - 'Have the skills to increase their independence and fulfil their ambitions....'					
33. Are there any worries about employment/ worklessness within the family?					
34. Are there any worries about family debt? (This may include rent arrears, credit card bills, utility bills)					
35. Are there any worries about financial exclusion?					
36. Are there any worries about housing?					
37. Are there any worries about a young person who is not in employment, education or training?					

Average Score

Average Distance Travelled Score	4.0
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How are we using your information?



If your family is assessed as eligible to receive support from West Sussex Think Family Programme we will share your personal information (including your name and date of birth) with the Department for Communities & Local Government for research purposes.

How will it affect me?

It will not affect your benefits, services or treatments that you get.

Your information will be anonymous and handled with care in accordance with the law.

Why is my information being shared?

We are sharing your information to help improve the services your family and other families receive in the future.

Standalone Wider Assessment

Wider Assessment Part 1

Family & Community Life and Relationships

How do family members get on with one another?

- Amy and Jack appear to have a close relationship. Amy says that she and Jack have lovely times together when it is just the two of them but that Jack often plays up when he does not get his own way. Amy says that Jack was very close to his Dad (Michael) before the divorce but that Michael did not prioritise Jack after the split because he was so angry with her. Amy thinks that Jack feels left out now that his dad is in a new relationship with a step-son who is similar to Jack in age.
- Jack says that he loves Mum, John and Lucy although Lucy can be annoying. Jack says that he thinks John is too strict. Jack says that he misses his dad but that he sometimes sees him when he is staying at his Nan's.
- John and Jack appear to be a bit distant with each other. John says that he thinks Jack has been allowed to get away with a lot of stuff and that he and Amy often disagree about the best way to manage him. John and Lucy appear to have a close relationship with lots of cuddles and smiles.
- John and Amy both feel that they are struggling with their relationship. John thinks that Jack's behaviour is the main reason for this. Amy feels that they have had a lot of change to deal with in a short period of time and that they could benefit from some relationship counselling. John agrees that this might be helpful.

What support is offered from extended family, friends and neighbours?

- Ann (Nan) has a warm and loving relationship with Jack and feels that he is sometimes blamed unfairly. She agrees that his current behaviour is unacceptable and tries to talk to him about why he is so angry and how he could do things differently. Ann says she tries to encourage Michael to visit when Jack is staying so that they can have time together.
- Jack says that he loves his Nan and enjoys spending time at her house. He worries that Mum and John want him to live with his Nan all of the time and thinks that John would prefer to only have Lucy living with them. Jack likes to spend time with his dad especially when they play football together.
- Amy has a group of 3-4 close friends who she can talk to and who support her emotionally. These friends also offer practical support in the form of babysitting and sleep-overs for Jack who is friends with their children.

How do individual family member's needs affect other family members?

- John's depression impacts on all members of the family as he is not able to connect emotionally with them when he is feeling so low and can feel tired and bad tempered
- Amy is trying to support John to get better but is struggling herself to manage Jack's behaviour and knows that John has a negative opinion of Jack and of her parenting choices.
- John's poor mental health makes it difficult for him to understand the possible root cause of Jack's aggressive behaviour and so his responses are mostly negative and punitive.
- Jack is saying that he thinks Mum and John don't want him to live with them. He is aware that they argue about him and this makes him worried and angry.
- Lucy is witnessing her parent's arguments and Jack's aggressive behaviour. Both these things are going to be upsetting/worrying for a 2 year old child. Amy says that she has noticed Lucy getting cross more when she does not get her own way. Amy is worried that Lucy is learning this behaviour from Jack.

Family Health

- John has a history of depression and is currently taking anti-depressants prescribed by his GP. He has been offered 1-1 support through Time to Talk but has declined this as he commutes to London for work and does not want to request time off from his employer.
- Jack has no known health concerns. He is registered with a GP and dentist and is up to date with his immunisations. Amy reports that Jack eats a healthy, balanced diet and is physically active. Jack has started to be a poor sleeper i.e. not settling until 10.30pm in the evening and often waking before 6am.
- Amy is overweight and describes herself as a "yo-yo dieter". Amy says that she comfort eats to make herself feel better. John says that he thinks Amy should do more exercise and eat less junk food.
- Lucy was born 4 weeks premature. She is still using a dummy on and off during the day and also to settle at night. Amy is worried that Lucy's speech is not as good as it should be at this age. She has spoken to her health visitor who has said that they will monitor this for the next 6 months.

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Family Home: Describe housing situation (is it adequate for the family's need, any concerns over overcrowding, hygiene, safety, risk of homelessness)

- The family live in a 3 bedroom, privately rented property in Chichester. They have lived at their current address for 12 months. Both Jack and Lucy have their own bedroom and there is small rear garden.
- Amy reports that they have a good relationship with their landlord and that they have recently signed a 2 year tenancy agreement with 18 months still to run.
- Jack says that he likes his house and has recently had a friend stay over on a sleep over.

Family neighbourhood: Describe positive support and strengths from the community as well as any anti- social issues, racial hatred, gangs, other complicating factors.

- Amy reports that she is happy with their current house as it is in a convenient location for her to get to school and shops. She does not have a car but there is a good bus service if she needs it.
- Amy says that there have been a few difficulties with one of the neighbours who complained about them being noisy.

Local services: What do the family use that helps them or is hard to access?

- Amy has registered at the local children and family centre and has attended Health Visitor clinics and Rhyme Time with Lucy.
- Jack's school is within a 15 minute walk of the family home and there is also a convenience store close by.
- There is a free bus service to the local supermarket but Amy often goes shopping with her friend who has a car as she finds this easier with Lucy.
- There is a local park/playing field nearby but Amy is reluctant to allow Jack to play here as he has been fighting with the other children and Amy fears reprisals from other parents.

Significant events that have impacted on family life.

- Amy says that the relationship breakdown and subsequent divorce from Michael in 2011 was very difficult and has had a big effect on Jack because he sees much less of his Dad now.
- Amy is an only child and both her parents died before Jack was born. She feels that she has missed out, in particular by not having her Mum around when Jack was born. She felt close to Michael's Mum (Paula) who was very supportive. This made the split from Michael even more difficult but she still feels supported by Paula although it is not the same since she re-married.
- Jack said that it was quite bad before his Mum and Dad split up as there were lots of arguments. He wishes that he could do more fun things with his dad and he would like to go and stay with him but there is no room.
- John says he is enjoying being a dad to Lucy but has struggled to build a relationship with Jack. His parents were divorced when he was 12 and he had a poor relationship with his step dad. He is no longer in contact with his own father.

Wider Assessment Part 2

Family Member Profiles

For Child:

Provide a pen picture of this child or young person. What are their particular strengths and needs? (Consider their education, emotional wellbeing, personal development, basic care and affection, family relationship, social skills and peer relationships etc.) How is the child impacted by their family situation? Ensure the voice of the child is present in their own profile.

For Adult:

Provide a Pen Picture of the strengths and needs of the adult/ parent/ carer. Think about disability, employment, mental and physical health, substance misuse, DV and other factors that are considered important in their life and relationships.

How is the adult impacted by wider family and environmental factors?

Consider the parent's strengths and needs in their ability to meet their children's needs and achieve change.

Ensure the voice of the parent is evident in their assessment.

John Brown

John is 33 years old and he lives with his wife Amy, daughter Lucy and step son Jack. John works as an IT consultant for a bank and commutes to London on a daily basis. John says that he enjoys his job but has started to hate the journey to work which gets him down. John would like to work closer to home but would not be able to earn enough money.

John says that he does not have any particular friends apart from colleagues at work whom he sometimes socialises with after work. John is not in contact with any family members.

John says that he feels lucky to have met Amy who is a great Wife and Mother. He loves being a Dad but is not always sure about how to 'do it'. He says that he takes his cues from Amy. John feels frustrated when Jack behaves badly and thinks that Jack has been spoiled by Amy and Ann. John thinks that Jack should realise just how lucky he is to be part of a family who love and care for him.

John has struggled with depression on and off since he was a teenager. He has taken medication from time to time but mostly things seem to get better on their own.

Amy Brown

Amy is 30 years old and lives with her husband John and two children Jack and Lucy. Amy was 22 when she had Jack with her first husband Michael. Before having Jack, Amy worked as a receptionist at a car sales room which she enjoyed because she likes meeting people.

Amy says that she was devastated when her marriage broke down as she always wanted to give Jack a stable family life. Amy does not regret the decision to end the marriage when Michael became aggressive and could not control his temper because she did not want Jack to grow up in that environment.

Amy is part of a small group of good friends who offer each other emotional and practical support. Amy has no immediate family but has made a strong bond with Michael's Mother who has continued to be an important part of her life even after Amy and Mark divorced.

Amy says "I love being a Mum and try hard to do a good job for Jack and Lucy"

Amy wishes that Jack and John could get on better and describes their relationship as 'strained'. Amy feels that she is torn because she can see both sides when they argue but she feels sorry for Jack because he is just a little boy.

Jack Green

Jack is 8 years old and he lives with his Mum, half-sister Lucy and step-dad John. Jack enjoys going to school. He says "School is good because I can play football with friends at break time and I like it when it is our turn to go swimming".

Jack has had a good school report from his teacher who describes Jack as "a friendly, enthusiastic boy". Jack's teacher also said that Jack needs to slow down a bit in the playground and to sometimes let other children be 'in charge'.

Jack says "if I had a magic wand I would play football with my Dad every day and we would also go to McDonalds". Jack does not see his Dad regularly although his Mum and Nan are working together to set up more regular contact.

Jack worries when his Mum and John shout about things and thinks that they are cross with him for being naughty. Jack says "I may have to go and live with my Nan if I don't stop getting angry and hitting but it keeps happening".

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Jack says that he likes having a baby sister and he thinks that they play well together and when she is older he would like to help her with her reading.

Lucy Brown

Lucy is 2 years old and she lives with her Mum, Dad and half-brother Jack. Lucy was born 4 weeks prematurely and remains slightly small for her age. Lucy has been seen regularly by the Health Visitor who has no concerns about her development.

Lucy's Mum reports that Lucy is a happy child with a healthy appetite and regular sleep routine. Mum reports that Lucy can play well with other children but is quite bossy and likes things her way.

Lucy likes Peppa Pig and her favorite film is Despicable Me which she has seen six times. Lucy's Dad describes Lucy as a "precious gift" and a "bundle of Joy"

Case Analysis

From the information you have gathered describe the main strengths and worries about the children's wellbeing and how the family functions.

What are the key complicating factors that impact the journey towards positive change?

Please highlight any concerns about danger/ harm. How do family members get on with one another?

- Jack is an 8 year old boy who is struggling to come to terms with the breakdown of his parent's marriage, his Mother's re marriage and the birth of his half-sister. He does not understand why his Dad seems to choose not to spend time with him and this is making him feel angry, frustrated, worried and sad. These feelings have started to show in his behaviour at home and more recently in school.
- Jack's aggressive behaviour in school has resulted in one fixed term exclusion and two internal exclusions. This is having a negative effect on his learning and is reinforcing opinion that Jack is a 'naughty' boy.
- Jack's challenging behaviour is causing conflict between his Mum Amy and John (step dad) and this is resulting in arguments and hostility between the couple. Both Jack and his sister Lucy are witnessing these arguments which are harmful for them and could result in one or both of them being physically or emotionally hurt.
- John is suffering with depression and this is making it harder for him to respond calmly and with understanding towards Jack. Instead he has taken a hard line and this is causing Amy to feel protective towards Jack and the couple are then divided and acrimonious.
- John has not experienced a positive parenting model and is possibly transferring some of his own negative feelings as a child onto the current situation i.e. 'I had to put up with being treated badly and it didn't do me any harm'.