

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	24/06/2015	
Consent Granted By	Deborah Lavazza	
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

Young Carers Association
Treetops School

Comments

Debbie was given a WSCC leaflet about what consenting to share information means.

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.

Jim lives at home with his mother, Debbie. His parents are divorced but his Dad, Mike, lives locally with his new partner and their two young children. Jim's maternal grandmother and grandfather died four and five years ago respectively. His paternal grandparents live in Scotland.

Details of practitioner undertaking assessment

Anne Worker, Practitioner, Treetops School

Email: none@email.com

Tel: 07777 777777

Child/Young Person 1 - James Berry

First name	James	Surname	Berry		
Known as	Jim	Previous Surname			
Title	Master	DoB	28/09/2001	Gender	Male
Contact Number	01273 999999	Type	Home	Preferred	No
Email	JBerry123@email.com				
Comments					
Address	1 Sunnyside Road, Horsham, West Sussex, XX99 9ZZ			Primary?	Yes
Comments	Landlord is XYZ Housing, tel 01273 999999			Type	Tenant Private
Framework Number	123456				
Ethnicity	White (English/ Welsh/ Scottish/ Northern Irish/ British)				
Religion	Christian				
School	Treetops School				
Immigration Status	UK National				
First Language	English				
Condition/Disability	Asthma				
Additional Info	Jim is a young carer.				
Special Requirements					

Adult 1 - Deborah Lavazza

First name	Deborah	Surname	Lavazza		
Known as	Debbie	Previous Surname	Berry		
Title	Ms	DoB	04/04/1980	Gender	Female
Contact Number	07777 999999	Type	Mobile	Preferred	Yes
Email	Dlava@email.com				
Comments					
Address	1 Sunnyside Road, Horsham, West Sussex, XX99 9ZZ			Primary?	Yes

West Sussex Early Help

Berry/Lavazza (9002)

Comments	Landlord is XYZ Housing, tel 01273 999999	Type	Tenant Private
Ethnicity	White (English/ Welsh/ Scottish/ Northern Irish/ British)		
Religion	Christian		
Immigration Status	UK National		
First Language	English		
Condition/Disability	Wheelchair user		
Additional Info	Debbie is a heavy smoker.		
Special Requirements			

Significant Other 1 - Mike Berry

First name	Mike	Surname	Berry		
Known as		Previous Surname			
Title	Mr	DoB		Gender	Male
Contact Number	07777 000000	Type	Mobile	Preferred	Yes
Email	Mikeberry15@email.com				
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

Deborah Lavazza	Adult
James Berry	Child

Practitioners

Name	Role	Start Date	End Date
Anne Worker	Practitioner	03/06/2016	
Anne Worker	Lead Worker	03/06/2016	

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 ...

1	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.
1	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 ...

1	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.
1	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 ...

1	Recipients of out-of-work benefits (pre Universal Credit).
0	Recipients of Universal Credit - subject to a work related condition.
1	Family members with low educational attainment (risk of becoming NEET).

West Sussex Early Help**Berry/Lavazza (9002)**

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 ...

0	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 ...

0	Family members with mental health problems.
0	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.
1	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	24/06/2015
Lead Worker	Anne Worker

What's going well?

- Jim is a confident young man who is able to speak up for himself and to tell professionals how he wants his life to improve
- When Jim gets into school he enjoys it and has a wide group of friends who are pleased to see him
- Jim enjoys attending the Young Carers' Group at the Youth Centre
- Debbie clearly loves and cares about Jim and tells me she wants the best for him
- Jim has recently started having more regular contact with his Dad

What are we worried about?

- Jim's school attendance has fallen to 40%
- Debbie and Jim are worried that he won't get the qualifications he needs because of the time he has missed in school
- Jim is often unwell with asthma which prevents him being as physically active as he would want to be
- As a result Jim has put on a large amount of weight, this is something he wants to change
- Jim's sleep pattern is upset by his frequent illness and lack of routine – this means he is often tired even when he gets into school
- Jim worries about his mother's health and sometimes feels he needs to be at home to look after her
- Debbie smokes heavily at home. This could be making Jim's asthma worse

Complicating Factors

- Debbie had a back injury in a car accident five years ago. She is unable to work and is often in pain. She has limited mobility outside the home
- Communication has been difficult between Debbie and Mike. This has prevented Jim seeing his Dad as much as he would like.

Desired outcomes

- Jim's school attendance to improve to at least 75%
- Jim to begin to meet his educational targets for his age and ability
- Jim's overall fitness to improve
- Jim to have at least seven hours sleep together between 10.00pm and 7.00am
- Jim to live in a smoke free environment at home
- Jim to have regular planned contact with his Dad

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
James Berry	Jim's overall fitness to improve.	Referral for a Junior Wellbeing Advisor.	Anne Worker	24/09/2015
James Berry	Jim to meet educational targets.	School to email work home when Jim not able to be in school.	Anne Worker	01/07/2015

Working Safely

West Sussex Early Help**Berry/Lavazza (9002)**

Case Member Name	Concern	Start Date	End Date
James Berry, Deborah Lavazza	None identified.	24/06/2015	

Example

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?					

West Sussex Early Help

Berry/Lavazza (9002)

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	3.6
----------------------------------	-----

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?

- Jim and his mother have a relationship which is sometimes close and confiding and at other times argumentative and stressful.
- Debbie and Mike had a difficult separation five years ago. Initially they had no contact at all, but this is now beginning to change.
- Jim values the times he spends with his Dad. Although he is fond of his half-siblings, he finds it difficult to spend a whole weekend with them.

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

- The only extended family support comes from Debbie's brother who lives in Horsham. He will help out in an emergency and recently paid for Debbie and Jim to have a holiday together
- Debbie became isolated from friends and neighbours following her accident and the deaths of her parents.

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

- Jim admits that he worries about his mother – both her physical disability and the times she becomes low and unhappy
- Jim helps out with mowing the grass and carrying the shopping, but Debbie cooks and looks after the house
- Debbie regards her cigarettes and her cats as important in helping her to cope although she realizes they may affect Jim's asthma.

Family Health

- Jim is overweight, has a poor sleep routine and suffers from asthma and frequent chest infections
- Debbie has poor mobility because of her back injury and is also on anti-depressant medication
- Mike is in good health.

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

Debbie and Jim live in a Housing Association bungalow. They are up to date with their rent, however the bungalow is very cluttered with their many possessions and Debbie admits that she is unable to keep it as clean as she would like.

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

The local church has been supportive of Debbie and Jim – providing help with decorating and clearing away rubbish, however the family has not chosen to become involved in the church community. The neighbourhood is pleasant however Debbie becomes very agitated when other residents use her disabled parking bay.

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

The family home is on the outskirts of Horsham. Although Debbie has a car and a blue badge she finds any activity outside the home difficult – eg shopping, hospital appointments, benefit interviews and may take Jim with her for support.

Although Jim attends the local Young Carers Group very regularly. He also enjoys their occasional outings and is looking forward to the planned residential trip.

Significant events that have impacted on family life.

- Debbie's car accident and back injury 2009
- Deaths of maternal grandparents in 2010 and 2011
- Mike left the family home in 2010

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.

Deborah Lavazza

- Jim is hugely important to Debbie. He is her only child and was born 10 weeks premature, so she feels she has always worried about his health. She tells me that she feels torn between trying to protect Jim and to look after him when he is ill, and wanting to see him succeed in the world of education. She tells me that she feels she has failed Jim because 'I am his Mum and I have been unable to sort things for him'
- Debbie was very close to her own parents and she still misses them hugely. The house is still full of their possessions and she feels that no-one can replace the support that they gave her
- Debbie finds it hard to manage on Benefits. She has a number of outstanding debts which worry her. She also misses her work as a Care Assistant
- Debbie is aware that her low mood is not helpful to herself or to Jim. She has recently seen the GP and has started taking anti-depressant medication

James Berry

- Jim is a friendly and able young person with a strong sense of humour. He makes friends easily and he knows that he is popular when he is in school. Family life is important to him. He cares deeply about his mother and he does what he can to support her with her disability
- Jim is still angry about his parents' separation and he tells me that he still misses his grandfather who was a very important person in his life. He can talk to his Dad and occasionally goes out with him on his own – but he admits that 'he is always too busy with work and the little kids'
- Jim tells me that he loves school and he is upset when he feels he and his mother 'are not believed' when he is ill. He says that he wants to do well in education and to be a nurse when he leaves school. However Jim's very poor attendance over the past two years means that he is falling far below what he should be achieving in most subjects
- Jim takes daily medication for his asthma and has regular appointments with the asthma nurse. He sees the GP promptly when he has a chest infection. He 'occasionally' visits the dentist.

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?

- Jim is a young person who has suffered many losses and difficulties in his life particularly over the past five years with his parents' separation, the loss of his grandparents and his mother's poor health. However he has succeeded in keeping a warm and friendly personality, a wonderful sense of humour and of the absurd, a deeply caring nature, a huge loyalty and concern for his mother, and a desire to do well in education
- Jim, his parents, and many professionals are however seriously worried about the amount of education he has missed and that he may not do as well as he should in his exams, and in life, because of this
- There are also worries about the effect of being isolated at home on his self-confidence and his health and fitness especially in view of his chaotic daily routines
- It is not clear whether Jim's absence from school is due to his health, lack of confidence or his role as a young carer – or to a combination of all these factors
- What is positive however is that Jim and his parents have agreed to work with professionals to address these issues. It will require hard work and trusting relationships on all sides if positive change is to be achieved in Jim's life enabling him to achieve the success he deserves.