

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	03/06/2016	
Consent Granted By	Annette Ruislip	
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

- Perry Vale - Community Services – Psychiatry
- Honor Oak-Park - Treetops Nursery, Worthing
- Doris Hill - Health Visiting Team

Comments

Copy of Information Sharing leaflet given to Annette and a further copy left with Mr and Mrs Ruislip. Annette understands that information may be shared with other organisations, but we will aim to discuss this with her.

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.

Suzy lives at home with her mother, Annette. She has not current contact with her father Tom, who now lives in Germany. Suzy's grandparents are very important in her life and she recently stayed with them for six weeks while her mother was unwell. Suzy's godmother Amelia lives nearby and sees her frequently.

Details of practitioner undertaking assessment

Anne Worker, Practitioner, Treetops School

Email: none@email.com

Tel: 07777 777777

Child/Young Person 1 - Suzy Ruislip

First name	Suzy	Surname	Ruislip		
Known as		Previous Surname			
Title	Miss	DoB	21/02/2012	Gender	Female
Contact Number	01273 000000	Type	Home	Preferred	No
Email					
Comments					
Address	West Sussex County Council, Worthing Library, Richmond Road, Worthing, West			Primary?	Yes
Comments	XYZ Housing Association; 01273 000000.			Type	Owner
Unique Pupil No.	A123456				
Ethnicity	Mixed / Multiple Ethnic Groups (Any other mixed/multiple ethnic background)				
Religion	No Religion				
School	Treetops Nursery				
Immigration Status	UK National				
First Language	English				
Condition/Disability					
Additional Info					
Special Requirements					

Adult 1 - Annette Ruislip

First name	Annette	Surname	Ruislip		
Known as		Previous Surname			
Title	Ms	DoB	18/06/1990	Gender	Female
Contact Number	07777 999999	Type	Mobile	Preferred	Yes

West Sussex Early Help

Ruislip (9003)

Email	Aruislip@email.com				
Comments					
Contact Number	01273 000000	Type	Home	Preferred	No
Email					
Comments					
Address	West Sussex County Council, Worthing Library, Richmond Road, Worthing, West		Primary?	Yes	
Comments	XYZ Housing Association; 01273 000000.		Type	Owner	
Ethnicity	White (English/ Welsh/ Scottish/ Northern Irish/ British)				
Religion	No Religion				
Immigration Status	UK National				
First Language	English				
Condition/Disability	Mental illness				
Additional Info					
Special Requirements					

Significant Other 1 - **Thomas Hainault**

First name	Thomas	Surname	Hainault		
Known as	Tom	Previous Surname			
Title	Mr	DoB		Gender	Male
Contact Number		Type		Preferred	
Email					
Comments					
Address					
Type		Comments			
No Fixed Address	No				
Unknown Address	Yes				
Ethnicity	Any Other White Background				
Religion	Not Stated				
Immigration Status	EEA National currently working				
First Language	Spanish				
Condition/Disability					
Additional Info	Tom is Suzy's father. Tom is believed to have moved to Germany – no contact details are available.				
Special Requirements					

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

Annette Ruislip	Adult
Suzy Ruislip	Child

Practitioners

Name	Role	Start Date	End Date
Anne Worker	Practitioner	03/06/2016	
Training User01	Lead Worker	03/06/2016	

Services involved with the family

Family Member(s)	Ongoing?	Service	Practitioner	Start Date	End Date
Annette Ruislip	Yes	Community Mental Health Centre		01/08/2015	

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 ...

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.
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.
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 ...

1	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.
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.
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	09/07/2015
Lead Worker	Training User01

What's going well?

- Suzy is a cheerful and lively three year old
- She is meeting all her physical and developmental milestones
- Annette has always been 100% committed to ensuring Suzy's needs are met even when she herself has been unwell and unable to care for Suzy herself
- Annette has always welcomed the support of professionals both for herself and for Suzy. She meets regularly with her Community Psychiatric Nurse
- Suzy's maternal grandparents are strongly supportive of her care – they have daily contact with Annette
- Suzy attends a local nursery every weekday in term time
- Social care have assessed the family on a number of occasions and are satisfied that there has never been any risk to Suzy in respect of Annette's mental health

What are we worried about?

- Annette has a serious and enduring mental health problem which means that at times she is unable to care for Suzy on her own
- Annette has recently been in hospital but is now at home again. Suzy has returned to her care, however Annette feels she is lacking confidence and has asked for support while everything gets back to normal
- There are some signs that Suzy may be taking time to settle since returning home with problems around bed times and meal times
- At times when Annette is feeling less sure of herself she has become anxious about going out and may become isolated from friends and services
- Suzy's grandparents are getting older and may not be able to help so much in the future

Complicating Factors

- Suzy's maternal grandfather recently had a stroke. He has made a good recovery but this has limited the extent of support he can give and increased the pressure on Suzy's grandmother
- Suzy's father lives abroad. There was a history of domestic violence in the relationship with Annette and he no longer has any contact with the family

Desired outcomes

- Suzy to continue to do well physically, emotionally and developmentally
- Annette to be confident in caring for Suzy at home – especially around meal times and bedtime routines
- Maternal grandparents to be able to continue in their caring role in spite of their recent health problems
- Suzy to be ready to start school in the next academic year

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
Suzy Ruislip	Annette to be confident about mealtimes and bedtime routines.	Referral to be made for Home-start volunteer.	Anne Worker	10/06/2016
Suzy Ruislip	Suzy will be ready to start school in the next academic	Information to be provided to Annette	Anne Worker	03/09/2016

West Sussex Early Help

Ruislip (9003)

	year.	about local primary schools and admission procedures.		
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Working Safely

Case Member Name	Concern	Start Date	End Date
Suzi Ruislip, Annette Ruislip	No concerns.	09/07/2015	

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?					

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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	4.9
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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?

Suzy and Annette have a close and loving relationship. Although Suzy has been cared for by her grandparents for extended periods including the first three months of her life, she, without doubt, regards her mother as her main carer.

Annette and her parents continue to have a close relationship. Annette accepts their support and advice, although she admits her father can wind her up and she can do the same for him.

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

Apart from Suzy's grandparents there are few other members of the extended family who give regular support. However Suzy's godmother Amelia is an important person in this family's life. She has a good understanding of Annette's mental health issues and a warm relationship with Suzy.

Annette is quite reserved with her neighbours, however she has a good friend who lives opposite who has young children of a similar age.

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

It is important to recognize that although Annette has serious mental health issues, Social Care are confident that Suzy has never been put at risk in any way by her mother's thoughts or behaviour. However there have been two or three extended periods when Suzy has been cared for by her grandparents when Annette has been too unwell to care for her. On a day-to-day basis the most significant effect of Annette's health issues on Suzy seem to be Annette's lack of confidence in managing routines and boundaries in their home life. It also seems that Suzy is taking time to again feel settled and secure in her mother's care since her return from her grandparents.

Family Health

Annette has had significant mental health issues since the age of 18 – see below – Pen Picture. Annette's parents are in their late 60s. Her father recently had a stroke but is making a good recovery.

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

The family has a pleasant ground floor flat owned by XYZ Housing Association. It is clean, safe and comfortable and appropriate for Annette and Suzy's needs.

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

Although Annette tells me she likes to keep herself to herself, she is aware that her neighbours are kind and well meaning. Suzy also enjoys playing with a neighbour's children in the garden of the flats under adult supervision.

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

The family home is situated close to the centre of Horsham so the family has good access to services even though they do not have their own transport. They have regular contact with mental health services and Treetops Nursery. They have previously attended the Children and Family Centre and a Home-Start Group.

Significant events that have impacted on family life.

- Annette has had two admissions to a mental health unit when Suzy was newborn for three months and for six weeks earlier this year
- Suzy's father moved to Germany when she was six months old and has maintained no contact with the family
- Suzy's grandfather had a stroke in June 2015.

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.

Annette Ruislip

- Annette is a warm and articulate young woman with the same lively sense of humour as her daughter. She is a loving and committed mother to Suzy. She enjoys her role as a parent, and family values are very important to her. She particularly appreciates the support her parents have given her, and she tells me that she hopes she will be as good a Mum to Suzy as her Mum has been to her.

- Annette has had significant mental health issues since the age of 18. This is largely managed with medication however there have been three episodes of more severe illness which have required hospital admission, although after each Annette has made a full recovery being able to resume her parenting responsibilities and to return to her work in a local GP surgery. Annette maintains close contact with her Community Psychiatric Nurse who has known her for many years.

- The aspects of her parenting role that Annette finds particularly difficult are issues around bedtime routines and meal times. She is asking for support in these areas and is willing to try out new strategies to resolve these difficulties. She does not currently feel confident to attend a group at the Children and Family Centre (although she has done this in the past) but she would welcome one to one support with these issues.

- It is possible that Annette's experience of domestic violence in her past relationship with Suzy's father has a continuing effect on her, but she is clear that this is not something that she feels she has the emotional energy to address at the present time.

Suzy Ruislip

- Suzy is a cheerful, healthy and active three year old. She is confident with adults and children that she knows well, although she takes time to feel secure with new faces. She has a mischievous sense of humour, and she is also strong willed about issues such as her choice of food and clothes.

- Suzy attends Treetops Nursery daily in term time. Her keyworker tells me she happily joins in activities with other children and particularly enjoys music and song time. At home she loves dancing and singing along to Abba. She is able to write an S for Suzy and to recognize her own name. She enjoys simple jigsaws.

- Suzy seems happy and settled when she stays with her grandparents when her mother is unwell. However during the most recent stay she reverted to needing nappies at night for a time and became tearful when being left at nursery. At the end of Annette's most recent hospital admission Suzy was frequently asking for them to return home together.

- However since returning home there have been problems with bedtimes, with Suzy being unwilling to remain in her bed, and waking from time to time in the night needing re-assurance from her mother.

- Suzy's father, Tom, is Peruvian. Although there is no current contact with Tom, Suzy's godmother is also South American and so provides a link for Suzy with this aspect of her heritage.

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?

•It is clear that Suzy is a child who is loved and well cared for by her mother and her extended family. That this has been achieved in the context of Annette's mental health issues, is a credit to both Annette's awareness of her own health and Suzy's needs, and of Suzy's grandparents' vigilance and support in ensuring that she is safe and well cared for at all times.

•However there are signs that the most recent episode has had an effect on Suzy's emotional security and on Annette's confidence as a parent. Annette's father's recent stroke is a reminder that their role as grandparents may have to change or reduce in the future. It is therefore important that the family broaden their support base both from voluntary and statutory services and by exploring other help which may be available from friends or family.

•As Suzy approaches school age this appears to be an excellent time to start an Early Help Plan to address these issues. It can also support the family with school preparation and Annette, as a parent, to enable her to give Suzy the structured, happy and stable home life she requires.

Example