

# Case Study West DV May 2014

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## **Household composition**

Mum, Dad, 3 children ages 15, 8 & 2

## **Reason for referral to Family Solutions**

Mum had attempted to harm dad with 2 knives

Oldest child attempted to intervene

Police were called

Oldest child had previously asked to be taken into care due to the fighting & arguing in the household

Oldest child was self-harming

Oldest child was presenting with challenging behaviour at school and at home.

## **Family Solutions Activity**

Referral made to CAMHS for the oldest child

Intensive activity by the Family Worker with both parents both together & individually about the roles and responsibilities they had previously established about financial arrangements & control.

Weekly 1-2-1 sessions with the middle child using arts & crafts

Work with oldest child about her place in the family & the understanding of family dynamics

Family is now accessing Family Therapy from CAMHS

## **Outcomes to date**

Both parents are more aware of each other's financial contribution to the family

Mum has a greater understanding as to why dad feels reluctant to commit more financially due to feeling a lack of control/authority within the home;

Mum now understands the impact on the children of the arguing and admits that it is not just the arguments that affect the children but also the bad atmosphere between the parents. Consequently, mum has begun to consider that it may be necessary to end the relationship if it continues to affect the children;

Oldest daughter is becoming more empowered in knowing that she can choose whether to allow mum to collude and confide in her, or to prevent this;

Oldest child has not self-harmed since Family Solutions have been working with the family;

Despite several incidents, the family home is much calmer. Both parents have devised strategies suggested by Family Solution to dissipate high levels of emotions, such as walking away from arguments etc.;

Family worker has given referral paperwork to dad for male victims of domestic violence and abuse – he is currently considering this

Oldest daughter states that she now feels safer in the home

In general, the entire family are much calmer and more able to deal with difficult emotions and can communicate more openly and effectively with one another.