

Acute Training Solutions

Safeguarding of Children - Case Studies

Sally

Sally, who is eight, has confided to a support worker that her father has been physically and sexually abusing her for the last three years. She has tried to tell her mother with no success. Sally has a younger brother and sister who attend school and an older 17 year old step sister who is currently in care. She has wanted to tell someone what has been going on but is scared as she wants it to be kept a secret and is terrified that Police will come to her house if she told anyone.

Discuss

- The dilemmas this scenario presents for you
- What would you do and why?

Wayne

Wayne, who is 16 years and the eldest of four children. He and his family live in a caravan at the local travellers' site.

Wayne is absent for long periods of time due to working with his father in the family scrap metal business.

On his return after a period away you notice a dirty bandage over a deep wound to his leg. When asked about the injury he tells you, in no uncertain terms, to mind your own business and limps away.

Discuss

- What do you think you should do next?

Ben

Ben, who is six years old, is often unwell. It seems that no sooner has he recovered from one illness he suffers with another. He is very thin, lethargic and quiet.

Having spoken with his parents they believe very strongly that human illness should be treated through faith.

They refuse to take him to a doctor or even allow the school's medical staff to examine him.

Currently Ben is looking so ill you feel he should be at home.

Discuss

- What should you do?

Jenny

Last week, on Jenny's 17th birthday, her dad and his new wife took Jenny and her boyfriend out for a meal. Her father had too much to drink and while kissing her goodbye he put his hand up Jenny's skirt and tried pulling on her underwear. Jenny was devastated by this. Jenny's biological mother tried to diffuse the situation by saying "he was too drunk to know what he was doing".

Regardless of a letter of apology he has sent her, Jenny no longer trusts her father and never wants to see him again; she says she feels sick every time she thinks about it.

Discuss

- What do you think you should do?

Rebecca

Rebecca is physically disabled and profoundly deaf and uses sign language to communicate. Her mother passed away when she was a baby so she has been raised solely by her father who refuses any help or assistance. Despite her disability Rebecca joins in with many of the physical activities in the school.

Having turned 13 years old, Rebecca tells you that she doesn't like the way her father bathes her any more.

Discuss

- What do you do next?

Peter

Peter is 14 years old, a bright pupil and comes from a very supportive family. His father was recently made redundant and his mother works as a clerk at a local bank.

You notice that Peter seems increasingly reluctant to return home. When you ask him why, he eventually tells you that his dad is always in a bad temper, goes to the pub a lot, comes home and hits his mum. His mum tells them to go to bed before his dad returns home and not to worry; but he often hears his mum crying and is scared.

Discuss

- What would you do now?