Case Study Elective Home Education/Child Missing Education

NAME OF CHILD: AB

DATE OF BIRTH:

00/00/1998 (14 years in 2012)

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- 1.1 AB emails NSPCC asking for help.
- 1.2 A Police Emergency Protection Order was executed on 00/00/2012 in respect of AB.
- 1.3 This was following concerns that AB had been working for the family business 6 days per week from 8.30am to 5pm from the age of 9 years old. AB's role in the family business was to use her computer to photo shop designs for requests from customers. She then produced the designs, which she and her brother then packaged and her mother distributed.
- 1.4 AB recalls that before the age of 9 she and her family would travel to markets around the country selling beanie teddies and snow globes.
- 1.5 AB had not received any formal education, she had never been to school and stated that her parents did not home school her.
- 1.6 However, her father had told the authorities that he home schooled both children and they have had a good level of education.
- 1.7 AB had told her mother she wanted to go to school; her mother told her to do what her Dad wanted for an easy life.
- 1.8 Child Health records in Wrexham give Llangollen address and EHE as education provision. It appears Health records never moved on from Wrexham to Powys/Shropshire; AB had all childhood vaccinations.
- 1.9 Between November 2010 and May 14 2012 she was registered with a GP at the address in Oswestry.
- 1.10 AB has described her father as being controlling and manipulative, he used foul language and ridiculed to dictate the family dynamics. AB states that her father refers to herself, her brother (age 18) and her mother as 'passengers' (and employees) in his home and he makes decisions regarding whether or not mum can make them tea depending on how much work they have done that day. AB has stated that she sometimes does not eat.
- 1.11 AB has disclosed that she has been self-harming in order to relieve the stress. AB has informed that she uses sharp objects including a staple block and a figurine which she has smashed to cut her thighs. AB also says that she has drunk half a cup of bleach.
- 1.12 AB has disclosed historical physical abuse but says that this ceased when her father had a heart attack in 2005.
- 1.13 AB says that she has spoken to her mother on several occasions about being unhappy and wanting the situation to change. However, her mother had always responded by telling her to do what her dad tells her.
- 1.14 AB believes that her mother and her brother are both unhappy but she thinks they don't know any different and are scared to make changes. AB was afraid of father and worried for her mother's wellbeing with her not being there when she entered care.

2.0 Chronology:

Date	Event
00.00.98	AB is born
25.11.98 –	Living in Clwyd
4.11.10	
1.11.99	Registered with GP in Powys (possibly last seen by GP 2002)
2004	Wrexham Child Health advised by a school nurse AB was in their area and possibly being home educated
2005	Father has heart attack
Feb 2006 – 25.11.10	Registered EHE with Wrexham LA. No evidence of previous school, always EHE. Letter was sent to parents Feb 2006 regarding an initial visit; Mother refused the visit. No reports were received to evidence that AB had been provided with a suitable education.
November 2010	Wrexham handed case over to Powys
4.11.10 – 14.5.12	Living in Oswestry,- not a Shropshire address (next to Lake Vrynwy)
Nov 2010-May 2012	GP registered :, Oswestry,
25.11.10	Removed from Wrexham LA EHE register. Reason for leaving OUT OF COUNTY DESTINATION UNKNOWN
25.3.11	Letter from Powys to parents re EHE; no visit offered
August 2011	Moved to Shropshire
May 2012	AB emailed NSPCC
9.5.12	Emergency Protection Order issued and AB accommodated
May 2012	EP assessment and LAC providing education; father refusing to allow her to go to school;
	AB thriving in new environment
Sept 2012	AB in mainstream school – thriving on the experience

3.0 Agency Issues/Case Management

3.1 Further investigation by the Education Access Service team in Shropshire showed:

- 3.2 Powys LA stated that AB was never known to them either through the CME route or through their Education Welfare Service (EWS).
- 3.2 However, Wrexham LA confirmed the case was handed over to Powys in November 2010. The home address at that stage was notified as Oswestry but not a Shropshire postcode.
- 3.3 Powys EWS did recall receiving a referral from Wrexham LA; Wrexham had mild concerns about AB as no one had seen her. A letter had been sent to the parents indicating they were aware that the family were home educating but no arrangement was made to visit and monitor education
- 3.4 Head teacher at Xxxxxxxx Primary School in Powys confirmed that AB had never been in the school but she was aware the family were home educating the children. This was not reported.
- 3.5 Powys Education Service confirmed that AB was not on their data base as she hadn't been given a date of birth.
- 3.6 No information held by Shropshire Council until AP made subject of EPO and taken into the care of the local authority. Not known to CME/EHE Shropshire. No referrals made by other local authority agencies when AB moved into Shropshire.