

## Fictional Case Study: The Kyle Family

The Kyle family consists of Mum – Joanne (38), Dad – Greg (41), Teddy (5) & Lola (8). There have been concerns of neglect raised by the Designated Safeguarding Lead at the primary school that Teddy and Lola attend.

Their current attendance is 68% and when they do attend school the children appear to be unkempt, they attend school in dirty clothes and Teddy wears shorts to school all year round. The children are often very late to school and the parents have said this is because they struggle with Teddy's behaviour in the morning. Teddy appears to be very nervous and anxious when he attends school. There have been traits of autism raised by his schoolteachers to Joanne and Greg, however Joanne and Greg have not acted on these concerns and report that "Teddy is fine". When Lola and Teddy have come to school the teachers have reported that they have seen nits in the hair of the children on multiple occasions.

Mum has reported feeling overwhelmed to the Family Liaison Officer (FLO) at the school, and she is often spotted at the school gates in her pyjamas when she comes to collect the children in the afternoon and morning. Mum has a history of mental health issues, and the school are aware of her struggles. Greg works full-time night shifts, and the children do not see him very often. Greg has a history of excessive alcohol use, which was revealed by Joanne to the FLO. The children are sometimes collected from the school and looked after by their maternal grandparents Peggy (68) and John (69). Peggy and John have also raised their concerns to the school about the welfare of Teddy and Lola, but they feel passionately that they do not want the involvement of social services with their family.

### Questions to consider:

1. Is there any information that you think is important and pertinent?
2. What safeguarding risks can you identify? What do you believe are the most significant risks?
3. If you were the social worker for this case, how would you support the Kyle family to address the risks identified?
4. What professionals do you think could be involved with the family?
5. What is working well for the family?
6. What other information about the family would be useful to know to help your decision making?
7. How well do the family appear to be coping currently?
8. How could you change the attitudes of the parents and grandparents to work collaboratively with social care?