

Alisha's story...

Name: Alisha*

Age: 36

Service: Safe and Well Checks

Background

Alisha was referred to our service by the local authority who had concerns surrounding her ability to meet the needs of her three daughters aged 9, 12, and 13. We were advised by the local authority that Alisha had a diagnosis Bipolar disorder and was experiencing a decline in her mental health. The local authority requested a series of unannounced safe and well checks.

What we did

Once we were in receipt of Alisha's background information, a small team of two family support workers and a lead social worker were allocated to the family. This team remained the same throughout the intervention in order to provide continuity to the children and Alisha. As requested by the local authority, our team conducted three visits to the families address each day for a period of four weeks. The visits were undertaken at varying times of the day and early evening, with our crisis support team available to the family throughout the night, should it have been required. At times, our team remained with the family, offering support and guidance where it was appropriate. Throughout the intervention, we worked closely with the local authority to ensure the appropriate sharing of information, as well as written reports for each visit that was conducted.

*Names have been changed to protect the identify of the children and their family. Stock Image.



Outcomes

Our approach to Alisha and her family enabled the small team of three professionals to develop and maintain a positive working relationship with her. We conducted our visits to the families' address unannounced and at varying times of the day and early evening, which enabled us to obtain a holistic assessment of Alisha's parenting capacity during the period of time she was experiencing her decline in mental health. At times, it was evident that Alisha required additional support, which our team provided. In response to Alisha's declining mental health, we were able to ensure appropriate support was available to the family during the night through our community crisis support team. As a result of our service, we were able to successfully support Alisha whilst she received appropriate treatment for her mental health condition. Our intervention directly enabled the children to remain safe in the family home with Alisha and prevented further escalation. Alisha and her three daughters were discharged from our service shortly after and continue to live together.



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