

Community Childminding | **Case Studies**

Sarah and Lucy

One-year old twins Sarah and Lucy were referred to the SCMA Community Childminding Service via their health visitor. The twins had no regular contact with other children and spent most of their days at home with mum. Both parents (aged 20) were inexperienced with children and received very little family support.

Mum was finding it difficult to cope with Sarah and Lucy's challenging behaviour and lacked self-confidence in her own actions. It was felt that a positive role model such as the Community Childminder would further develop mum's parenting skills allowing her to provide a range of suitable experiences to allow the twins emotional and social development.

The interaction and socialisation with other children and adults would provide Sarah and Lucy with the chance to build healthy relationships with their peers and allow them to be part of their community.

After an initial placement meeting between all parties it was decided that the placement would be for 12 weeks to give mum and the twins time to develop a trusting bond with the Community Childminder and the other minded children.

The use of the Wellbeing Indicators identified outcomes for the placement. A mid-review meeting was held after six weeks to monitor progress and the Wellbeing Indicators showed positive outcomes which included age appropriate toileting habits, comfortable eye contact and an increased willingness to communicate with the Community Childminder.

Mum also secured a place on the Triple P Parenting Programme. All the evidence showed that the family was benefiting from the Community Childminding Service and building trust. By the end of the placement Sarah and Lucy were showing age appropriate behaviour and were engaging well with other children. Mum's confidence had greatly improved and with the support of the Community Childminder was keen to try new activities with the twins.

Mum felt more relaxed to enjoy her time spent with Sarah and Lucy, and the health visitor also noticed a significant positive impact on the family and felt that Sarah and Lucy had greatly improved.

Jane

A referral was made for a three-year-old girl in kinship care. She was being looked after by her aunt, who was soon to become a single mother herself. The aunt was nearing the end of her pregnancy and struggling to maintain the caring role, however desperately wanted to.

Receiving support from a Community Childminder twice per week enabled the child to socialise and play with other children, while supporting her aunt through the last stages of pregnancy and allowing her to spend time adjusting to her new baby and becoming a mother.

Alex

A referral was made for a young teenage mum, deemed 'at risk', who was homeless and was 'sofa surfing' with her son, age two, at friends' houses.

The child was placed with a Community Childminder in May 2018 and it was agreed that support would stay in place until accommodation had been found. The placement continued until mid-September (approximately 18 weeks), which is slightly longer than the usual 12 weeks, but an extension was agreed due to the specific needs of the parent whilst seeking permanent accommodation.

The Community Childminder provided childcare for the young two-year-old, who responded well to the socialisation, nurture, stability and secure attachments he formed with his childminder. There was a concern about the child's speech, however, this improved during his Community Childminding placement, and continued to improve following their move into their new accommodation.

In addition to supporting the child, the Community Childminder was able to provide on-going support for mum. She kept her updated on the progress while her son was with her and they discussed parenting routines and simple activities to do on a daily basis. Once a new flat had been secured, the parenting advice and guidance also helped him to settle in his new environment with mum.

As well as parenting support, the childminder was able to offer a great deal of practical support to mum in assisting her to move into her new home, reducing the stress and anxiety associated with coping on her own.

The Community Childminder has strong links within her community, with key contacts which enabled her to source all furniture and homeware essentials for their new home for free. This included large, expensive items such as beds, sofa, carpets and white goods, not forgetting books and toys for her son. The practical support was also extended to signposting mum to receive welfare advice to ensure she was able to claim appropriate benefits and manage her money.

Mum was extremely grateful and felt the Community Childminding Service was a life saver for her and her child. They still maintain contact and the mum knows she can go back to the Community Childminder for advice or support if needed.

Now that the young family has a new address, the Health Visitor has been able to secure a place in nursery, to continue to provide support for the child.

Community Childminders | going the extra mile...

Here are some quotes from Community Childminders who are committed to their role and provide such a valuable community resource:

"I continued to provide childcare for the family free of charge after the placement ended, as I knew the family needed it and I had the space."

"I've supported a lone parent living within Women's Aid, accompanying her when attending local groups to build her confidence and meet other parents."

"I have helped the parents understand the need to work together, listen to each other and follow instructions from the social worker. I've encouraged them to spend time with their child, showing love and support, manners and the importance of sitting around a table to eat."

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