

QAF case study – Schoolyard bullying



THE YOUNG PERSON

Michael* is a 10 year old boy who is in the care of his maternal grandparents. The grandparents have care of four other children, one who has severe behavioural difficulties. Nan has significant challenges supporting five children, and a partner who was dying.

Michael has been in their care for eight years. Michael's mum has a number of challenges and although her children are in care, continues to remain in their lives.

CASEWORK AND THE QUALITY ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK

Michael's Nan always completes the five children's Strength and Difficulties Questionnaires (SDQ) every six months. The children's caseworker reviews the results with Nan and they sit to reflect on the SDQ report. Nan particularly liked to look at the bar graph in the report, as a quick visualisation of change.

Michael completes the QAF Child and Young Person Questionnaire and happily shares his report with Nan. The caseworker believes it was his way of letting Nan know what was happening for him. Michael was mindful of not giving Nan something else to worry about, he felt she was having to deal with enough 'stuff'.

*Name/s changed to protect the privacy of individuals

THE OUTCOME

Michael regularly completes the QAF Children and Young Person Questionnaire, but the most recent showed a change, which stood out to his caseworker. Michael had disclosed in the questionnaire that he didn't feel safe. On discussion with the caseworker, Michael explained that he felt very safe at home with his Nan and grandfather, but he was being bullied at school.

With permission from Michael, the caseworker met with his Nan to discuss the results in the QAF Child and Young Person Questionnaire and what was happening for Michael at school. Michael's Nan felt sad that this was happening to him and that she had been so busy and unaware of the situation.

Nan and the caseworker developed some strategies to support Michael. The plan included: Nan to speak with the school teacher, Michael's relative who attended the same school to start playing with Michael so that he wasn't alone at recess and lunchtime, Nan will spend some more one to one time with Michael, after the other children have gone to bed.

Following up with Michael he happily shared that the boy who had been bullying him was now 'my friend' and that the bullying had stopped. On reflection the caseworker commented that:

Had the QAF questionnaire not been completed that day, the bullying may have continued unnoticed by the adults in Michael's life.