

Enc.

Susanne Leece
Child Protection Chair

Yours sincerely

I enclose a copy of the minutes taken at the meeting. They are confidential documents in that they contain personal information about those involved. If you have any queries about the minutes please do not hesitate to contact either the social worker or myself.

Date: Monday 5 March 2012
Time: 10.30 am
Venue: Council Offices, Civic Way, Ellesmere Port CH65 0BE
(Committee Room 2)

As you know at the Child Protection Conference held on the 16 December 2011 which you attended it was agreed that Aurora and Orion be made subject to a Child Protection Plan and a Review Conference was arranged for:

Re: Aurora Dobbie - DOB 11/06/2001
Orion Dobbie - DOB 20/10/2006

Dear Mr Dobbie

Our Ref: cph/SL Your Ref: Telephone: 0151 337 4624 Fax:

Date: 13 January 2012

Mr T Dobbie
6 Coventry Road
Great Sutton
Ellesmere Port
CH66 2GL

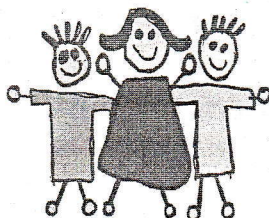
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Strategic Director
Children and Young People's Services
Gerald.meehan@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk
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Children's Safeguarding Unit
Council Offices (Floor 4)
4 Civic Way
Ellesmere Port
Cheshire CH65 0BE

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**The Local Safeguarding
Children Board**

Working to Keep West Cheshire's
Children and Young People Safe



**Cheshire West
and Chester**

Address of Child Protection Chair:

Children's Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Unit,
Children's Services, Council Offices, 4th floor, Civic
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INITIAL

**MINUTES OF CHILD PROTECTION CONFERENCE HELD ON 16 DECEMBER 2011
AT COUNCIL OFFICES, ELLESMERE PORT**

| <u>CHILDREN</u> | <u>DOB</u> | <u>ETHNICITY</u> | <u>SCHOOL</u> | <u>LEGAL STATUS</u> |
|-----------------|------------|------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Aurora Dobbie | 11/06/2001 | White British | Capenhurst CE Primary School | None |
| Orion Dobbie | 20/10/2006 | White British | Capenhurst CE Primary School | None |

ADDRESS: Shared parental care at:-

Mother – 38 St Asaph Road, Great Sutton, Ellesmere Port CH66 2GP

Father – 6 Coventry Ave, Great Sutton, Ellesmere Port CH66 2GL

| <u>OTHER MEMBERS OF HOUSEHOLDS</u> | <u>DOB</u> | <u>RELATIONSHIP</u> | <u>PR (Yes/No)</u> |
|---|------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Catherine Avril Dobbie (known as Avril) | 08/04/1969 | Mother | Yes |
| Thomas Dobbie | 13/04/1958 | Father | Yes |

| <u>OTHER SIGNIFICANT PEOPLE</u> | <u>DOB</u> | <u>RELATIONSHIP</u> | |
|---------------------------------|------------|---------------------|--|
| | | | |

CATEGORY OF CONCERN:

EMOTIONAL ABUSE

DATES OF ANY PREVIOUS CONFERENCES: N/A

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CONFERENCE ATTENDEES

| <u>NAME</u> | <u>TITLE</u> | <u>AGENCY</u> |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Avril Dobbie | Parent | |
| Thomas Dobbie | Parent | |
| Susanne Leece | Child Protection Chair (Chair) | Children's Social Care |
| Carole Hall | Business Support (Minutes) | Children's Social Care |
| Barbara Goldsmith | Social Worker | Children's Social Care |
| Kevin Buck | Team Manager | Children's Social Care |
| Simon Lonsdale | Detective Inspector | Police |
| Michaela Adams | Cheshire Police | Police |
| Julie Acton | School Health | Health |
| Vicky Bunting | SENCO – Capenhurst Primary | Education |
| Joanna Jones | Acting Head – Capenhurst Primary | Education |

APOLOGIES

None recorded

COPIES OF MINUTES ALSO TO:

| | | |
|------------------------------|---|--------|
| Dr S P Kingston | GP | Health |
| Dr Mittal | Designated Doctor – Safeguarding Children | Health |
| Satwinder Lotay/Danuta Jones | Named Nurse Safeguarding Children | Health |

PURPOSE OF CONFERENCE

The purpose of the Initial Child Protection Conference is:

- to share and analyse information about the child's developmental needs and the parents' or carers' capacity to respond to these needs to ensure the child's safety, and promote the child's health and development within the context of their wider family and environment;
- to consider the evidence presented to the conference and taking into account the child's present situation and information about his or her family history, and present and past family functioning, make judgements about the likelihood of the child suffering significant harm in future, and decide whether the child is continuing to, or is likely to, suffer significant harm; and
- to decide what future action is required in order to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child, including the child becoming the subject of a Child Protection Plan, what the planned developmental outcomes are for the child and how best to intervene to achieve these.

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REPORTS RECEIVED FROM

| Name | Agency | Report Received |
|-------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Simon Lonsdale | Police | Report provided |
| Julie Acton | Health | Report provided |
| Joanna Jones | Education | Report provided |
| Barbara Goldsmith | Children's Social Care | Report provided |

KEY EVENTS/CONCERNS LEADING TO CONFERENCE

- Aurora and Orion Dobbie are likely to suffer significant emotional harm due to their parents' acrimonious divorce and Thomas Dobbie's non-engagement with the Child in Need Plan.
- There were ongoing concerns around the emotional impact of Aurora and Orion.
- Avril and Thomas Dobbie are currently in private law proceedings with contest over contact and residence of Aurora and Orion. Avril and Thomas Dobbie currently provide shared care for Aurora and Orion

BACKGROUND HISTORY

The family have been known to Children's Social Care since 2006; Avril and Thomas Dobbie are currently going through Family Law Proceedings in relation to custody and contact of Aurora and Orion Dobbie.

Avril and Thomas Dobbie currently provide shared care for Aurora and Orion at their respective homes.

On 01/08/2011 Thomas Dobbie informed the Police that Aurora had disclosed to him new allegations that her mother had physically abused her by spitting in her face and holding her down on the carpet for long periods of time. A Section 47 joint investigation was undertaken by Police and Children's Social Care. Aurora did not disclose any physical abuse by her mother during the visit, but expressed her anxiety and concerns around her Mother's friendship with Ken Redman; stating that she had heard noises coming from her Mother's bedroom.

A Core Assessment was completed by Social Care on 20/09/2011 which raised concerns about the emotional impact on Aurora and Orion Dobbie of the acrimonious relationship between Avril and Thomas Dobbie; the parent's use of Police to resolve conflict was an ongoing concern. A recommendation was made that the Aurora and Orion Dobbie receive additional support via Child in Need plans (CIN).

It was felt that Avril Dobbie engaged well with the CIN plan; however it was difficult to engage Thomas Dobbie in the process. Thomas Dobbie attended the CIN meeting on 17/11/11, and professionals were unable to identify a plan that Thomas Dobbie felt able to engage in as he refused to progress discussion beyond his accusations of Avril Dobbie's lying and her alleged physical abuse of Aurora. There continued to be concerns regarding the lack of parental recognition and response to the emotional needs of Aurora and Orion.

Dobbie x 2
16/12/2011

Initial CP Conference Minutes Version SS- 1.7.10

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CHILDREN

Aurora Dobbie (aged 10 years)

EDUCATION

Information in relation to Aurora's education was provided by Vicky Bunting and Joanna Jones.

Aurora attends Capenhurst CE Primary School, where she is currently in year 6. Aurora presents herself in school as an independent learner; she has difficulties with peer relationships within school and does not mix well with other children. Aurora does have a small friendship group but does at time rely heavily on the company of her younger sibling Orion and this potentially could interfere with his peer relationships.

Aurora is very sensitive about her appearance and there had been one recent incident when she had been concerned about going swimming because she did not want to wear her swimming costume; it was reported that Aurora is now engaging with this activity. Aurora lacks confidence and there are issues around her self confidence and esteem.

Aurora finds group work challenging; her behaviour does at times isolate her from peers and her presentation can be very different to other children in her age group; this stands out within the classroom setting.

Aurora is not forthcoming in engaging in conversation with an adult, however, she had recently openly expressed her anxieties to her class teacher, Mrs Bunting.

- Aurora had raised her concerns about adults lying to her.
- Aurora does not know what she wants and is finding her parents relationship difficult.
- Aurora did not want to upset her parents and wanted them to understand that she wanted to be with them both.

Aurora's emotional distress is an obstacle to her learning, and this has been particularly evident over the last six months. Aurora is not focussed; she appears preoccupied and is not working to her full potential because there are so many things going on in her life. Aurora is very bright with the potential to achieve well academically.

Aurora rarely completes a piece of work and finds it difficult to make a decision regarding use of equipment in school, partnerships with peers and even deciding upon what to eat for her dinner. Aurora is reluctant to write things down.

Thomas Dobbie advised that Aurora expresses herself at home by writing and drawing.

Avril Dobbie advised that Aurora will not write things down when she feels there will be professional scrutiny, she does write things down at night.

Susanne Leece, Child Protection Chair advised Avril and Thomas Dobbie that Aurora is confused; each parent's perception of what the difficulties are for the family is so different that the only way Aurora can make any sense of this is to conclude that one of the people who she should be able to trust is lying to her. Perhaps Aurora has been unable to write

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down her thoughts and feelings in school because she is concerned that she will get someone in trouble.

Representatives from Capenhurst continued with their contribution. They stated that Aurora is often late for school when in the care of her father; Aurora can be unsettled within school if there has been an outburst in the morning. Thomas Dobbie had indicated that Aurora's tantrums/outbursts in the morning were responsible for Aurora arriving at school late. Aurora's late arrival is impacting on her social interaction with her peers. If anxious, Aurora presents herself as sullen and withdraws herself from activities or friendship groups. Any confusion in relation to who is picking Aurora up from school can cause her significant distress.

Thomas Dobbie reported that he often works in Scotland, if he returns home late than Aurora becomes anxious. Thomas Dobbie advised that Aurora is reluctant to go to school and it takes a long time to persuade Aurora to go to school in the morning. Aurora had expressed an interest in home schooling.

Avril Dobbie advised that while Aurora was in her care she had never experienced her displaying anxious behaviour and not wanting to go to school.

Susanne Leece, Child Protection Chair asked Avril and Thomas Dobbie whether they had discussed home schooling with Aurora; both parents advised that they had not and neither indicated that they felt this was a viable option for Aurora. Susanne Leece stated that this was creating difficulties in the morning then Aurora simply needed to be given a clear message that she will not receive home schooling; children attend school and it is not optional. Susanne Leece continued that she would be concerned about any proposal to home school Aurora as she already experiences difficulties with peer group relationships. Other professionals indicated their agreement with this.

HEALTH

Julie Acton, School Nurse, provided information in relation to Aurora's health.

Aurora's hips had been malformed due to her breech birth.

Following a series of fits; medical assessments identified cloudy parts of Aurora's brain.

On 12/06/2001 Aurora had been admitted to the Neonatal Unit due to abnormal movement and two episodes of tonic/clonic seizures which had continued for a period of 48 hours; she had commenced on phenobarbitone. Aurora had continued to be reviewed in outpatient clinic; there had been no abnormalities detected and no information available in relation to further seizures. Aurora had therefore been weaned off phenobarbitone.

Aurora had been admitted to A&E when she had woken from a night terror, complaining of pain over various parts of her body, no apparent physical cause had been found.

Aurora continues to have issues with her bowels, but has no current Consultant hospital involvement.

Aurora's immunisations are up to date.

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A referral had been made to Primary CAMHS in November 2009 to support Aurora's emotional health; an assessment identified that there was no requirement for 1:1 support as her behaviour was as a result of anger and conflict within the family home. Recommendations had been put in place to support Avril and Thomas Dobbie in managing Aurora's behaviours; they had been enrolled on a Parenting Toolbox Course to support them in implementing routines and boundaries. Avril Dobbie attended three out of twelve sessions; Thomas Dobbie failed to engage with support from the Parenting course.

A more recent referral in 2011 has been made to CAMHS by CAFCAS, an assessment on Aurora had been undertaken by Geraldine Metharall; she had been discharged from the service, as they would be unable to work with Aurora due to the number of unresolved issues between her parents. Aurora can be re-referred to CAMHS following the Court process.

A psychological assessment on Aurora had been completed by Tom Billington.

Avril Dobbie reported Aurora's self image is low; her name had been placed on the waiting list for "MIND" which supports children suffering from low body image and would support her self esteem. This is a ten week programme, two sessions/week starting in January 2012.

The Child Protection Chair, Susanne Leece raised concern that although both parents were supportive of Aurora attending MIND, the practicalities of this may prove difficult given that Aurora is being parented by two parents who do not communicate beyond the most basic of text messages. MIND would require both parents to work together in order to support Aurora and offer her a consistent response. It is an expectation for both parents to be able to resolve the issue amicably.

Thomas Dobbie stated that he had implemented a support programme for Aurora with her half-brother Graham. Susanne Leece stated that this programme would not be a neutral, independent service and would not be appropriate given the nature of the concerns.

Thomas Dobbie reported that Aurora suffers from eczema, which he believed was linked to emotional distress, and would also flare up during the winter when the central heating was used. Susanne Leece recommended that Aurora was seen by her GP in order to manage her eczema with prescribed medication, which should be available at both family homes.

Thomas Dobbie expressed his concerns around Aurora's emotional and psychological welfare; he reported that Aurora suffers from night terrors when she becomes agitated and distressed.

WISHES AND FEELINGS

Aurora needs to live in a safe and stable home environment where all her basic needs are met.

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Susanne Leece, Child Protection Chair expressed her concern around Orion's lateness and the impact on Orion missing out on social interaction with his peers.

Thomas Dobbie advised the meeting that Orion is very bright; he likes to work on activities independently and was particularly interested in Science. Orion communicates well with his parents and had the opportunity to socialise with other children outside of the school setting.

Avril Dobbie reported that when Orion had been at pre-school he had initially been quiet, it had taken him a long time to settle and interact with his peers. Orion demonstrates his imagination well within the home setting.

HEALTH

Julie Acton, provided information in relation to Orion's health.

There were no issues with Orion's physical health. All health appointments had been attended as required.

Health records indicate that Orion had attended Accident and Emergency on 6 occasions

- 25/11/2008 – presented with viral symptoms and wheeze – discharged.
- 25/09/2009 – presented with viral wheeze, diagnosed with croup – discharged
- 01/08/2010 – injury to right toe, dressing applied – discharged
- 05/08/2010 – re-attended following injury to right toe, dressing applied – discharged
- 20/04/2011 – injury to right thumb, closed fracture – discharged
- 15/05/2011 – poked cotton bud into ear causing it to bleed - discharged

Orion failed to attend an Out Patient appointment for audiological assessment following a referral by the Health Visitor at his 10-13 month examination.

Orion was referred to the Speech and Language Therapy Department by the Health Visitor, following assessment on 06/05/2010 Orion was discharged. Any speech and language concerns would be addressed via the School.

Orion was reviewed in the fracture clinic on 12/05/2011, following an injury to his right thumb, he was subsequently discharged.

Orion had no outstanding immunisations.

Orion's health assessment and screening was up to date. A routine school entry screening to assess his height, weight and hearing would be undertaken in early 2012.

Orion sucks his thumb which Avril Dobbie had found difficult to discourage; if thumb sucking continued, strategies would be put in place with the support of Primary CAMHS.

Thomas Dobbie advised that Orion sucks his thumb when he is distressed. He also reported that Orion was prone to chest infections following a diagnosis of croup when he was younger.

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WISHES AND FEELINGS

Orion needs to live in a safe and stable home environment where all his basic needs are met.

Wishes and feelings work with Orion had been undertaken by Barbara Goldsmith (Social Worker). Due to his age, Orion's capacity to understand the court process is limited.

Orion has indicated that he would like to continue to see both his Mummy and Daddy.

Thomas Dobbie advised that Orion can be extremely violent with Aurora; he has a short fuse and often retaliates quickly with children that visit the family home.

Avril Dobbie confirmed that there was some aggressive interaction between the children, but believed that Orion mirrored the behaviours displayed by Aurora.

PARENTS

Police

DI Simon Lonsdale reported that neither parent has any criminal convictions.

Thomas Dobbie has complaints lodged against Cheshire Constabulary which are subject of current investigation.

The first police contact with Avril and Thomas Dobbie was in 2006. There had been a number of occasions in the last 5 years where police had been called by one or other parent. Principally the incidents had concerned breaches of civil court orders in respect of child custody or requests by one or other party for advice. Police records indicate disputes between parents when the children were returned late or not returned at all.

There had been a number of occasions when police have attended at times when the children were being collected or dropped off to prevent breach of the peace. On one occasion a physical assault was reported by Avril Dobbie which resulted in the subsequent conviction and then acquittal of Thomas Dobbie. There have been counter allegations but no other offences substantiated.

The parents had failed to communicate verbally and had used text messages to liaise with each other around contact; they had involved police to resolve issues.

09/02/06 – Avril Dobbie had been caring for her mother in Scotland, she had intended to move back to Scotland with Aurora. Thomas Dobbie obtained a residency order preventing Aurora being removed from the family home. Allegations were made against each party. No criminal offences had been identified and there had been no further police action.

13/02/2006 – Avril Dobbie contacted police, she had been unable to get Aurora to school as Thomas Dobbie was blocking her car in. Neither parent had attempted to communicate with each other. No offences were disclosed.

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14/07/2010 – Call from Avril Dobbie when Thomas Dobbie failed to return the children on time.

23/07/2010 – Thomas Dobbie was arrested and charged for an assault on Avril Dobbie. Orion had been in bed with his mother and had witnessed the assault; Thomas Dobbie entered the bedroom and allegedly punched Avril Dobbie repeatedly about the head. Avril Dobbie was reported to have raised her foot in defence. Thomas Dobbie was convicted at court but subsequently won an appeal and the case was dismissed.

24/07/2010 – Thomas Dobbie made a counter allegation that he had been assaulted by Avril Dobbie who had allegedly kicked him in the face during the altercation on the 23/07.2010. Thomas Dobbie alleged that the children were at risk from their mother due to her mental health; there were concerns raised around alleged physical chastisement of the children and the home conditions.

18/01/2011 – Thomas Dobbie renewed his complaint of assault by his wife in July 2010.

21/02/2011 - Avril Dobbie contacted police as Thomas Dobbie had failed to return the children in accordance with the existing court order. It was established that Avril Dobbie had agreed via text message to Aurora that she could remain with her father. Avril Dobbie had changed her mind and contacted police to resolve the issue. The police had raised concerns around the effects of the adult's behaviour on the children.

15/03/2011 – An investigation was undertaken by Police in relation to an alleged sexual incident involving Aurora and two young children. Due to limited disclosures and the age of the children no formal action was taken by Police.

01/07/2011 – Avril Dobbie reported that Thomas Dobbie had taken photographs of her house. No offences were disclosed and she was referred to civil remedy.

04/07/2011 – Both parents contacted the police in relation to access to the children – they were referred to civil remedy.

11/07/2011 – Thomas Dobbie contacted police via letter, requesting police investigate ongoing abuse by Avril Dobbie toward Aurora and Orion. Thomas Dobbie raised concerns around Avril Dobbie's mental health and her ability to safeguard the children. Thomas Dobbie alleged that Aurora had disclosed that on one occasion she had heard noises from her mother's bedroom and had witnessed her mother in the bedroom with her partner Ken Redman which had caused her emotional distress.

07/09/2011 – Police were called to an incident involving Thomas Dobbie and Ken Redman. Thomas Dobbie had taken photographs of Ken as he walked near to Avril's home. Thomas Dobbie reported that he had taken the photographs as part of his evidence gathering process for the civil court as Ken Redman was not supposed to be at the address when the children were present.

Avril Dobbie confirmed to conference that Ken Redman was not having any contact with the children.

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Susanne Leece advised Avril Dobbie that if Ken Redman was to have any contact with the children in the future and the children were subject of a child protection plan then background checks would be undertaken by Social Care and Police. Avril Dobbie confirmed that she understood that she must alert Social Care about potential contact but stated that this was not planned for now or in the future.

31/10/2011 - Call from Avril Dobbie when Thomas Dobbie failed to return the children on time.

Thomas Dobbie reported that there had been a problem with communication between himself and Avril Dobbie due to the Police imposing bail conditions which involved a total embargo with communication. Police had been requested to intervene during incidents involving contact arrangements because there had been no other avenue to go down. These conditions have now been lifted but the only communication channel between Thomas Dobbie and Avril Dobbie with regard to contact is via text messages.

Avril Dobbie reported that she now seeks advice via her Solicitor when there is an issue and they provide guidance on which agency to seek support through. Avril Dobbie reported that since the implementation of the Residence Order in June 2011 texting has been working effectively to organise contact and this minimal communication has helped to avoid conflict.

DS Lonsdale summarised that there were ongoing concerns in relation to Avril Dobbie and Thomas Dobbie's ability to prioritise the needs of Aurora and Orion above their own, which professionals believe is causing the children emotional harm. Aurora Dobbie's anxieties and difficulties are connected to her parent's acrimonious relationship, a lack of consistency and the ongoing Court process.

Barbara Goldsmith stated that a Child in Need Plan could not progress; although Avril Dobbie engaged fully with the aims of the plan, Thomas Dobbie had failed to engage.

Thomas Dobbie stated that he had failed to engage with the Child in Need Plan as he believed that it had been totally unattainable as there were parties involved who had been dishonest and untruthful.

Susanne Leece stated that the emotional needs of Aurora and Orion Dobbie must be prioritised by both parents. There needs to be consistent parenting styles within both homes in order to support the emotional welfare of Aurora and Orion. The children require consistent routines and boundaries i.e. bedtime and morning routines, consistent messages about where they are going to live and where they are going to school.

Both parents acknowledged that the needs of Aurora and Orion must be prioritised; Thomas Dobbie added 'on the basis of honesty and attainability'.

Avril Dobbie (Mother)

Avril Dobbie's practical parenting knowledge and skills appear to be sufficient to meet the needs of Aurora and Orion Dobbie.

Catherine Banham, Family Support Worker (FSW) had visited the home of Avril Dobbie, there had been no concerns raised around the care afforded to Aurora and Orion by Avril

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Dobbie who was meeting all their needs. There had been evidence of good interaction between the children and their Mother.

Barbara Goldsmith stated that it is acknowledged that Avril Dobbie had experienced some difficulties in the past; but with support from professionals particularly around Aurora's emotional needs, she appears able to meet all the needs of Aurora and Orion.

Thomas Dobbie stated that Aurora had raised specific allegations of physical abuse against her Mother. Thomas Dobbie was advised by Susanne Leece, Child Protection Chair that Aurora had not repeated these allegations to professionals so could not be pursued further.

Thomas Dobbie (Father)

There had been no concerns raised in relation to Thomas Dobbie's practical parenting knowledge and skills. What is of concern is his ability to prioritise the emotional needs of the children and work in partnership with Avril Dobbie and involved agencies.

Barbara Goldsmith stated that the Child in Need Plan could not progress as Thomas Dobbie refused to work within the plan. Thomas Dobbie refuted this and stated he would work with any plan but it had to be based on honesty and attainability and one of the other people within the plan, Avril Dobbie, was proven to be untruthful.

There was lengthy discussion about the type of plan Thomas Dobbie could work within but this could not be progressed during conference because Thomas Dobbie simply kept repeating that none of the plans were based on honesty and attainability because one of the key components of the plan was proven to be untruthful. Susanne Leece advised that there was opportunity today to move forward and for a plan to be identified with both parents that would meet the needs of the children, decrease the tension in the parents relationship and therefore reduce stress and anxiety for all family members, however it appears that Thomas Dobbie is not able or willing to do this at present despite his assertions to the contrary. Susanne Leece recommended that if a child protection plan was made today and Thomas Dobbie did not feel that he could work within this then Children's Social Care would have to seriously consider seeking their own legal advice to identify if they should seek to gain shared parental responsibility for the children to enable them to have a direct role in decision making for the children.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

Home conditions

Avril Dobbie lives in the family home, which is a three bedroomed detached property and is appropriate to the needs of the family.

Thomas Dobbie lives nearby in a rented four bed roomed detached property which is located close to the family home.

There had been no concerns raised in relation to the home conditions of either property.

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Finances

Both parents appear to be able to meet the financial needs of Aurora and Orion.

Thomas Dobbie is a physicist and works full-time from home. He occasionally works away from home.

Avril Dobbie is currently in part-time employment.

Wider family support

Aurora and Orion have direct and indirect contact with extended family members who live in Scotland.

Community links

The family are well established within the Ellesmere Port area. They reside within close distance to health services and shops.

SUMMARY AND RISK ANALYSIS

Susanne Leece, Child Protection Chair, summarised the meeting

The following positives were identified:-

- There had been positive information in terms of the practical care of Aurora and Orion by both Avril and Thomas Dobbie.
- Historical health needs for Aurora and Orion have been met and all health appointments have been attended.
- Aurora and Orion are both physically well presented and there are no concerns in relation to their appearance.
- Education appears to be a priority for both parents; the children are both bright and able to academically achieve.

Susanne identified risks in the following areas:

- Aurora's emotional distress is proving an obstacle to her learning and in her peer group relationships.
- Aurora's distress increases when there is there is uncertainty in her life; yet her parents do not work together to provide her with routine and consistency.
- Aurora is often unable to make age appropriate choices and this increases her anxiety. She has poor self image and again this interferes in her social development.
- Although Orion's presenting behaviours do not raise concerns to the same degree as Aurora's he can be aggressive and there is concern that he will at times mirror the behaviours of Aurora
- Both children have been aware of adult discussion and information and know that their parents separation is acrimonious
- The children have witnessed conflict between their parents and Aurora was aware that the Police were being used by her parents during conflict.

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- Aurora appears to make sense of her parent's differing perspectives by the idea that one of her parents is lying to her. These are the two people she should be able to trust and again this causes her emotional distress.
- Aurora and Orion are moved between their parent's homes and are unsure where they will be placed in the future.
- Avril Dobbins was prepared to fully engage with the CIN Plan; however the proposed plan had been untenable for Thomas Dobbins and he had failed to engage.

DISCUSSION AND DECISIONS

Conference members addressed the question of the need for a Child Protection Plan in light of the risk analysis above.

It was a unanimous decision of professionals that Aurora and Orion Dobbie be placed on a Child Protection Plan with a review being held in three months.

Avril and Thomas Dobbie must both fully engage with the Child Protection Plan. If either parent fails to engage effectively with the Plan, Children's Services to consider holding a Legal planning meeting to identify if the Local Authority should seek shared parental responsibility for the children via care proceedings.

DECISIONS

ACTION BY

1. **Unanimous decision that Aurora and Orion Dobbie be made subject of a Child Protection Plan.** Chair

Category of Concern: Emotional Abuse All to Note
2. **Lead Social Worker: Barbara Goldsmith Assessment and Care Management Team, Ellesmere Port** All to note
tel: 0151 337 4531
e-mail: Barbara.goldsmith@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk
3. **Review of Child Protection Plan** All to note

Monday 5 March 2012, 10.30am at Council Offices, Civic Way, Ellesmere Port, CH65 0BE (CR 2)
4. **Core Group to be formed consisting of Avril Dobbie (Mother); Thomas Dobbie (Father); Kevin Buck (Team Manager); Barbara Goldsmith (Social Worker); Julie Acton (School Health); Vicky Bunting (SENCO); Joanna Jones (Education); Carole Hobson (CAFCASS); Dr Kingston (GP) plus any other relevant professional.** Core Group Members
5. **Date agreed for first Core Group Meeting.**

Tuesday 20 December 2011, 12 mid-day at Council Offices, Civic Way, Ellesmere Port, CH65 0BE

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OUTLINE CHILD PROTECTION PLAN

Please refer to The Conference Outline Plan which has previously been circulated on the 19/12/2011

Conference Outline Plans MUST be developed into fuller Child Protection Plans at the FIRST CORE GROUP and sent to the Safeguarding Unit by the Social Worker.

THE CHILD PROTECTION CHAIR SHOULD BE INFORMED IF IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO IMPLEMENT ANY ASPECT OF THE CHILD PROTECTION PLAN

*****Please note that for all future Child Protection Conferences the reports from all agencies need to be available to the Chair at least 2 days before the meeting. Please send your report by secure email to:***

safeguardingunit.west@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk.cjism.net

*****Please also note that it is an expectation that each agency professional has shared their report with the parents and child (if appropriate), in advance of the date of the Conference***

Minutes authorised by:

Susanne Leece

SUSANNE LEECE
CHILD PROTECTION CHAIR

Date: 12/01/2012

INACCURACIES OR OMISSIONS IN THESE MINUTES NEED TO BE REPORTED TO THE CHILD PROTECTION CHAIR WITHIN SEVEN DAYS OF RECEIPT

Scheduled time: 10.30

Conference commenced: 11.00

Conference concluded: 12.50

Duration: 1 hour 50 mins