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Case study four: Maria

Support and safeguarding assessment with Maria

Form SC2: Assessment care and support needs

The worker will explain why they are having this meeting with you. Usually it is because you have asked for an assessment or because another agency that you have been in contact thought that we might be able to help.

You should have been asked if you were happy for them to tell us that you might need help.

Who asked for or suggested this meeting:	<i>Pauline Hughes (Health visitor)</i>
Who is at this meeting:	<i>Katya Scaravelli (Social Worker) and Maria Papadakis</i>
Part One: About You	
Name	<i>Maria Papadakis</i>
Address	<i>14b Kings Avenue, London, NW7 888</i>
Telephone	<i>0208 xxxx xxx</i>
Email	<i>(none – computer broken)</i>
Gender	<i>Female</i>
Date of birth	<i>08.08.92</i>
Age	<i>24</i>
Ethnicity	<i>White European</i>
First language	<i>Greek, also fluent in English</i>
Religion	<i>Greek Orthodox</i>
GP	<i>Lime Street Surgery</i>
Support needed to take part in meetings/make decisions	<i>None Helpful if childcare can be arranged</i>
Other person making formal health and welfare decisions?	<i>No (Maria is able to decide what support she wants)</i>



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I (Katya Scaravelli) explained that I had asked to see Maria because the health visitor had told adult social services that she thought Maria needed more help to be able to look after Sophia. I checked whether Maria would prefer to speak to someone in her first language (Greek), but she was happy to continue in English. Quotes below are Maria's own words.

I asked Maria how she and Graham organised the housework and looking after Sophia.

Maria told me that she used to do everything for herself but that because she got tired easily she had some help with cleaning and with getting up. She used to go to the local gym and swimming and had been thinking about becoming a coach for children with disabilities before she found out she was pregnant.

Since Graham moved in he has insisted on doing everything. "He gets cross with me if he gets home and finds out I've tried to do something for myself, because he worries".

He does all of the shopping and the cooking. He leaves her a meal when he goes out. Maria thinks it's time to start giving Sophia more solids but Graham won't buy baby food and won't leave the blender where Maria can reach it. Sophia likes cornflakes but Maria said she has to "be careful that there are none on Sophia's clothes or cot when Graham gets home". I asked her why, and she said that Graham sometimes "gets angry when I do things differently to how he likes them done".

Maria used to shop online and get a delivery but the computer stopped working. Graham said it has a virus. It means she can't Skype her mum any more. She can't get to the bankcards because he has put them on top of the wardrobe "out of Sophia's way". Her phone charger has vanished. Maria has asked Graham to fix these things so she can start to do her share of organising things again but he is always "too tired or wanting to relax".

He doesn't seem to know how to clean. She asked him to let Anna her cleaner come back but he "won't have anyone else in the house". Sophia isn't moving around much but Maria is worried that if she starts to crawl she will pick up infections. She knows there is a dirty nappy from months ago behind the kitchen bin but she can't get to it herself.

Some of Maria's ligaments were damaged during the birth. It means she needs help to get onto the bath. Graham scares her with his games of "ducking" her so "I don't bath often and then he complains I don't look nice!" Maria also needs Graham to set out her pain medication in the mornings. They keep the pills up high so Sophia can't get them but Graham often forgets to give them to her. Maria can't get into bed until Graham is home to help. It can be very late. She often doesn't sleep because she is in pain.



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Safety issues

> Does Maria feel safe?

If no. What is it that Maria is afraid of? Who is making her feel afraid?

Maria told me that she is “scared all the time but I don’t know why”. She thinks she has lost her confidence because of giving birth.

She says she is “scared of making mistakes”. She told me Graham shouts at her and calls her a “clumsy crip”. The more he shouts the more mistakes she makes – for example dropping hot drinks because her hand is shaking.

She said Graham didn’t used to treat her badly before he moved in. Maria said Graham used to get very angry when Sophia cried and would stop her breast feeding, saying she should use a bottle (which she couldn’t do because that would mean getting out of bed, transferring to her chair etc). Sophia hardly cries now.

Graham is a bit better now Sophia isn’t sharing their bed but he still gets cross when she asks him to do really important things like replace her wheel chair battery. She has been getting really tired because she has had to walk using the furniture or crawl around the flat for 3 weeks now.

Maria is scared Sophia has a learning disability. She doesn’t do the same things her nieces and nephews did when they were babies. She is worried that the referral to children’s services will mean that Sophia is taken away.

If this is a situation of domestic abuse use the DASH-Risk assessment as a basis for talking with the person at risk about what is happening to them.

See DASH-RIC attached

I am particularly worried about the high risk to Maria of Graham ducking her head under water in the bath and the sadistic behaviour he shows towards her dogs. Sophia agrees that Graham should stop doing these things.

If the person is at risk and it is safe to do so, help them make a Safety Plan

See plan below



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The outcomes I want and support I need

What do you want to happen next and what help do you want to make those things happen?

During the meeting Maria told me a lot of things that she wants to be better. Maria said

- > *I want to make sure Sophia is ok*
- > *I want a battery for my wheel-chair*
- > *I want my computer fixed.*
- > *I want a new phone charger*
- > *I want my car some days - (I could drop Graham and work and he can get a lift home)*
- > *I want to talk to my mum (on Skype) in private*
- > *I want my mum to come here and meet Sophia*
- > *I want Graham to let me cook so I can start to wean Sophia*
- > *I want to have help to learn tricks to look after Sophia just like they taught me to look after myself after the accident*
- > *I want to have a cleaner again*
- > *I want to be able to have a bath or shower by myself*
- > *I want to feel better*
- > *I want to have a rest so I can get strong and then talk to Graham about getting all this sorted*
- > *I want my dogs to have a better life, get regular exercise and good food*

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What next – plans to meet care and support needs and (if relevant) safety plan

Using the information above and in the DASH-RIC, make a plan of action below.

	What	Who will do this	By when
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
11.			

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Future contact

I (Katya Scaravelli) will come and see you next week at the same time and for 6 weeks to make sure this plan is starting to work.

Maria is also likely to have contact from Children's Centre and from the IDVA

> **What is your preferred way for us to contact you?**

Write to me or knock on the door.

> **Is it safe to contact you anytime? If not, when is the safest time?**

Don't write anything bad about Graham in anything he might read.

He works most Friday and Saturdays.

> **If we contact you and it's not safe to talk, can you think of something that you could say that would let me know that it's not safe to talk?**

"sorry my head is hurting"

> **Is there anything else you would like us to be aware of when contacting you?**

Wait at least ten minutes at the door in case I am slow getting there.

I will give you my phone number when I have my phone back.

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Conclusion

(What is your professional opinion about this case? What evidence is there of coercive control? What action is being taken and why?)

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Safeguarding enquiry summary			
Is/are there an adult/s at risk		Date information shared with the police?	
Who is at risk?		Who from	
		Relationship	
Are there any child protection concerns		Has a child protection referral been made?	
About who?			
Has a DASH-RIC been completed		High risk?	
Has a referral been made to MARAC?			
Is there a safeguarding/protection plan?			
Is the plan in place?			
Date of any multi-agency safeguarding meeting			
Review date			
Signed consent given to this support plan (see below)		Mental capacity to consent to this plan?	

Completed by

Name:

Role:

Organisation:

Date:

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Signing this form

Please ensure you understand the statement below, then sign and date the form.

I understand that completing this form will lead to a computer record being made which will be treated confidentially,

Information I have provided on this form will only be shared as allowed by the Data Protection Act. The worker completing this assessment with me has explained what the Data Protection Act says.

I understand that the council will store this information so that they can provide me with information, advice and support. To do this they may also share the information with NHS organisations and providers of care services who may be able to help me.

This means I won't have to give the same information to lots of different organisations. I understand that all health and social care services have a similar duty to treat my information confidentially in accordance with the Data Protection Act.

If I am at serious risk for example from domestic abuse or if other people are at risk from someone who is abusing me then the council may share my information with other organisations such as the Police to help keep me safe and protect other people

If I have given details about someone else in this assessment, I will make sure that they know about this unless doing so might place them or me at risk of harm.

The worker completing this assessment has explained that I will be involved in all decisions that are made about my care and support and that if I am unhappy about the support I am offered or the way in which services are delivered I can make a complaint – firstly to the manager of the service who will try to put it right and then if I am not happy to the Social services complaints office. Tel: 01234 567890.

Name: Maria Papadakis

Signature: *Maria Papadakis*

Date: *Today*