

CASE STUDY – JAMES

James' situation has deteriorated. He has admitted to using butane gas on several occasions. He has spoken to you about the situation and it appears that he started to use again when his girlfriend left him. He has also confided that he buys the gas and cigarettes from the local newsagent and he has been stealing glue from the local hardware shop. Sometimes he sniffs with his friends and sometimes alone. James says that he has thought about stopping using but he does it for fun and says that it is less dangerous than drinking.

Things came to a head last night when James got into a fight with some boys from his school. This resulted in James being taken to hospital by the Police and having stitches above his right eye. He has to report to the police station today with an appropriate adult.



You have been asked to participate in an assessment for James.

What are the important factors that you need to record?

What is the recording process for your organisation?

ASSESSMENT OF COMPETENCY FORM

Does the young person have a mature understanding of her/his situation?

Does the young person understand the consequences of her/his behaviour?

How intensive or invasive is the proposed treatment?

Does the young person understand the consequences of the proposed treatment?

Is the young person's understanding of the situation compromised in any way, eg intoxication or learning difficulty?

Has the situation changed since competency was last assessed by the service?

CHILD PROTECTION FORM

Is the identified substance use unusual for a person of this age?

Does the young person have a mature understanding of the level and type of her/his substance use?

Is the substance misuse life threatening or seriously detrimental to health?

Is the substance misuse becoming increasingly chaotic or dangerous?

Does the young person have complex problems that may put them at risk of suffering significant harm as a direct or indirect result of misusing substances?

Is the substance use leading to crime or exploitation by others?

Are there non-drug-related criteria for consideration of a child protection referral?

HANDOUT – ASSESSMENT

CHILD PROTECTION OF DEPENDENT CHILDREN FORM

Please use the notes from **Tackling Drugs in Scotland** (<http://tinyurl.com/yvdfal>) and **Good Practice Guidance** (<http://tinyurl.com/ypjhch>) for full details of the areas to be assessed.

Has a comprehensive assessment of the home environment and basic care of any dependent children been carried out, and who by eg. SW?

What type of substance use is the parent involved in eg. experimental, recreational, chaotic, dependent? How reliable is this information?

Is there a drug free or non-problematic alcohol user parent, partner, or relative who can provide support?

Are there any mental health issues that are adversely affected by the substance use?

Where are the children when their parents are procuring drugs or getting a prescription? What are the financial implications for the family? Is the home used by other substance users?

HANDOUT – ASSESSMENT

Is adequate provision made for the safe storage of drugs/alcohol? Are the parents aware of what to do in an emergency? Are parents taking adequate precautions to reduce the risk of Hepatitis and HIV infections?

If the parent is injecting are they taking the necessary precautions with storage, disposal etc of injecting equipment?

What social supports are available to the family, and what do they access eg. grandparents, professional agencies etc?

What is the parents' understanding of the impact of their substance use on their children?