



“Practice Points”

Learning Scenarios

Faith & Spirit Possession



**To be used in Team/Group Sessions/Supervision
As a 15-minute discussion point.**

The BHSCP Learning & Development subcommittee invite you, in team meetings or during group supervision, up to four times a year to discuss a child safeguarding issue.

We encourage responses to be included in your team minutes and forwarded to the safeguarding lead within your organisation.

We hope that this is a way in which frontline staff across the city can explore some areas of learning without the need to attend formal training. It should also highlight areas of further learning.

We are happy to help with access to relevant learning materials

Consider the following question and discuss.....

Muru recently arrived from Africa to join her stepmother, father and stepsiblings. It has been reported that Muru is regularly seen in dirty and ill-fitting clothes, has poor attendance at school and appears withdrawn. She has a poor relationship with her family. You observe that her parents rarely focus on Muru, talking instead about her “odd” behaviour, that she is “possessed by the devil” and the struggles in the family to deal with this.



What would or could you do to assist this young person and or his family?

Points for Discussion:

How would you progress this matter?

What further information would you like from the family or child/young person?

Would you advise the family of your concerns?

Do you require any further information from other agencies and how might you obtain this?

What is your role in this situation?

How would you assess this risk?

If you are leading this discussion here is some information for you to investigate to assist with the discussion:

BHSCP - <https://sussexchildprotection.procedures.org.uk/tkyphx/children-in-specific-circumstances/abuse-linked-to-spiritual-and-religious-beliefs-ritual-abuse/#s4051>

DFES

<https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130313095340/https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationdetail/page1/DFES-00465-2007>

GOV.UK - https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/175437/Action_Plan_-_Abuse_linked_to_Faith_or_Belief.pdf

There may be other information available, and links to these maybe held within the information above.....