

Case Study - Housing Register & CBL

A client who was currently renting a property in the private sector approached the Housing Needs Service in September 2011. The household comprised of a husband and wife and 2 children, one of whom was an adopted child who had been diagnosed with foetal alcohol syndrome.

On initial application it appeared that the family were adequately housed as they were residing in a 3 bedroom house and the rent was at a reasonable level and it was affordable. On receipt of the application it was passed to the Occupational Therapist contracted to the Housing Needs service to advise on whether any additional priority could be awarded.

Further discussions with the mother established that the child was demonstrating increasingly challenging behaviours. The child was not aware of potential risk and there was increasing concern as the windows on the first floor were not lockable and there was a real possibility he could be at risk of a fall.

As an interim measure Housing Needs discussed the case with the Care & Repair Home Improvement Agency also located within the Strategic Housing Service in Neighbourhoods. Care & Repair were able to arrange for an approved contractor to visit the property and assess what additional security measures could be introduced. In addition it was arranged for the Children's Occupational Therapist to visit to establish whether any aids or adaptations could be put in place to reduce the risks.

Unfortunately the nature of the child's behaviour meant that stair gates and other interim aids and adaptations would not be practical in the current property and would not necessarily improve the situation. A Care & Repair Surveyor visited and advised that the windows in the property were of metal construction and could not have window locks fitted so we were unable to increase the levels of security in the property.

The reports back highlighted that there were no preventative measures which could be implemented at the current property so with the advice the Occupational Therapist in the Housing Needs Team it was decided that the family should be awarded high priority on the Peterborough Homes Housing Register and shortly after the family were successful in their application for a suitable property in Eye through the Choice Based Lettings scheme.

Without the joined up response demonstrated in this case study this family could have continued to live in unsuitable accommodation for a prolonged period with an increased risk to their child.

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