

Bach Friendly Group Case Study

The 'Goings On' Next Door

Introduction

You have recently finished all your Bach Practitioner training and are understandably proud to have qualified and registered with the Bach Centre. During your training you became more aware of the importance of confidentiality and yet until then you had not given much thought to when it would not be appropriate to keep some information confidential.

Concerns

Now that your attention has been drawn to the topic of risk and especially to children at risk of harm or abuse, you have started to wonder about the family next door.

They have lived there for a couple of years and your impression is of a really noisy household. There is a lot of shouting – sometimes quite loud shouting at the children, including lots of swearing. The children's language leaves a lot to be desired too. Their ages seem to range from about 13 years (a girl who looks at least 18 when dressed up with full make up to go out on a Saturday night), through two boys of about 10 and 8, a toddler of about 2 and a new baby (about 4 months now).

The mother always seems to be smoking and wears the same cardigan all the time. You don't see a lot of her in the winter, but she sits on the doorstep in the sunny weather, watching the world go by while the younger children play in the garden and the street outside. She seems to have a lot of visitors at odd times and you wonder about the fathers of the children. Certainly the current male figure hasn't been around much for the last few months, which means there have been less rows and that is a relief.

They seem to keep some odd hours too. The lights are on most of the time. Even in the loft you can see light at night through a roof window and you think maybe some of the children sleep up there? It is only a three bedroom semi detached house, so maybe they need the room ... but why don't they turn the light off when they go to bed?

You wonder whether the children are properly fed. You have seen one of the boys with a black eye and last year he had his arm in plaster for 6 weeks too. They all look scruffy and scrawny – except of course the oldest, the girl who tarts herself up every Saturday night and goes out with boys who pick her up in fancy black BMW cars. You never see her come home and can only speculate when she returns.

The police call in now and then, but you are not sure why. Of course it is not your place to ask and you don't want to be thought of as a nosy neighbour. These are just things you have noticed over time. It is not as though you have your nose to the window all the time!

- But what does this all amount to?
- What evidence do you have for your concerns?
- What action do you feel may be appropriate?
- How do you feel? Or how do you think the new practitioner character feels?
- Which remedies do you need? Or does the new practitioner character need?

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