

Meet Johnny & Mary

Johnny Golightly	10 years	
Mary Golightly	5 years	
Marina Golightly	36 years	
Daniel Smith	39 years	mother's ex partner
David Poulson	deceased	birth father

Johnny & Mary live with their mother, Marina. Marina has a learning difficulty which affects her socially and educationally. The children's father, David, was killed in a motorbike accident three years ago. Marina met Daniel Smith online last year and they began a relationship. Last month Daniel moved into the family home.

Daniel Smith has convictions for meeting a child following sexual grooming and sexual assault of a child under 13. He is currently on probation with conditions not to approach children, and breached these conditions by living with Marina. On becoming aware of the relationship, probation contacted MASH and a strategy discussion was held, initiating a s47 enquiry.

Police and children's services approached Marina and under the 'need to know' guidance have shared with her the relevant details from Daniel's record. She was shocked by the information and immediately decided he should no longer live with them. She is unsure whether to terminate the relationship. During the course of these discussions it emerged that Marina is a victim of domestic abuse due to the controlling and coercive nature of her relationship with Daniel.

The children are not making the expected progress at school. Johnny is behind with his speech and language. It is thought this may relate to Marina's learning difficulties – she has told the social worker she feels self-conscious and does not support Johnny with his schoolwork. Her mother has offered to assist with this.

The children are also described by the school as "waifs and strays", often not wearing the right clothes and sometimes dirty. This echoes the home conditions and the social worker is planning to commence an assessment of neglect