

Residential case study - Part 2

Bianca is 15 and has been with the home for a year, following parental neglect and sexual and physical abuse at the hands of mother's boyfriend. Her mother also has a history of care, sexual abuse and alcohol dependency, and neglected Bianca due to this for many years. Bianca's mother visited the home with her 5 months old daughter who was seen to have some bruising to the face. Mother brushed this off when questioned by your care worker, and Bianca left with her despite being asked by staff not to go.

Mother has already advised her social worker and health visitor about the bruising as the baby is subject to a child protection plan. They have accepted her explanation. Mother has successfully completed a period of rehab and counselling and is 'clean' as she knows this is her last chance to parent. Bianca's abuser is no longer around and is on bail awaiting trial for Bianca's abuse.

Mother has agreed to give evidence in support of Bianca and wants to apologise for not protecting her but is wary of the children's home due to her own care experiences. They are walking round the corner to the park to talk and Bianca has told her friend Jo that she will be back for tea..

The RSW on duty decided to follow Bianca to the park and to stay close to her as she was worried that she might go off with mum and not come back. At one point Bianca started to cry and swear at her mum so the RSW stepped in to help but then 'turned on her' swearing, and shouting. Bianca then decided to return with the worker and stomped up to her room slamming the door.

Bianca and her mum have subsequently made a complaint to the senior manager about the RSW, saying that she was bullying Bianca, and that because of this she doesn't want to stay and has asked her social worker to move her.

The RSW is furious and threatening to walk out if the manager doesn't support her in this. She is tearful and saying she is going off sick...

What is going on in terms of:
Safeguarding?
The drama triangle?

What would you do?