

Case studies – November 2017

Think about – what is worrying, what is reassuring, what more information would be helpful, what will you do next?

- 1) During an out of hours session you see a 4 month old baby brought in by his grandmother with cough and wheeze. While examining his chest you notice a bruise on his back. The grandmother says she doesn't know anything about it as she and her partner are just babysitting for her son who was due to have the baby overnight but had to go to work.
- 2) The mother of a 15 year old girl has made an appointment for her daughter and rings you beforehand. Laura has been missing school and has become withdrawn and tearful. The school have suggested getting her referred to CAMHS as they are worried she might be depressed. Her school work has deteriorated and they think she is involved with a boy who they describe as a trouble maker. When Laura attends she isn't very communicative. She says school is boring and is looking forward to leaving. She asks for a prescription for the pill
- 3) A Mother comes to see you with her 2 children aged 2 and 4 in tow. She wants a letter for the housing to help her get a new house as she wants to leave her partner. She also says she needs you to look at the 2 year old because he won't stop coughing. The 2 year old is uncooperative and difficult to examine. His nappy is soggy and his vest very grubby. The mother shouts at him and tells you he is impossible. Both children spend the consultation opening drawers and bins.
- 4) One of your patients brings her toddler to see you in emergency surgery with symptoms of a viral illness. She says she is exhausted by sleepless nights and wants antibiotics for the child. Her record suggests she is a single parent but she has come today with a boyfriend who you recognise as one of the substance misusers on your opiate substitution programme
- 5) A teacher, who you have been seeing for some years because of serious mental health problems, becomes pregnant. She wants to stop her anti-depressive medication as she is worried about its safety in pregnancy and breast feeding and does not want her new husband or maternity services to know about her previous problems. She tells you that she will ask for help if her mental health problems get worse.
- 6) A woman brings her 6 year old grandchild, Ria, to see you and says that she wants you to refer her for her gait. She had clicky hips as a baby and now her Grandmother thinks she is walking 'funny'. You ask where Ria's parents are and the grandmother tells you that she and her husband have an SGO (Special Guardianship Order) for her as her parents couldn't cope with the children.
- As you examine the child she tells you that you are 'sexy' and that her big cousin Gemma has a sexy boyfriend who is grand-dad's friend.
- Grandmother passes it off. You ask her where Gemma is and she tells you she is at school.