

Using an intergenerational lens when working with children and parents

Case study – Haley

Haley is a young mother who lives with her partner, Lewis and their three year old daughter, Crystal. Haley's own childhood was difficult - she grew up experiencing family and domestic violence (FDV) in the home, and she often overheard loud and angry arguments. Haley's parents separated when Haley was young, but there were times when her father would turn up unwelcomed at the family home, which in turn led to more shouting and arguing and the police being called. Haley's mother was often quite unwell with depression and since she had very little external support, Haley would assume the role of carer for her two younger brothers and her mother. Haley was considered the 'perfect child' until she entered her teens. When she was fifteen years old, Haley's grades began to drop, she got into trouble at school and started self-harming.

Now as a mother herself, Haley is committed to being a supportive and engaged mum and providing a safe home for Crystal. However, Haley and Lewis are now experiencing difficulties in their relationship, with Haley admitting that she feels angry and exhausted a lot of the time. Along with having recently lost his plumbing apprenticeship, Lewis has been smoking a lot of weed and hanging out with his friends more than usual. To help with making ends meet, Haley is working two jobs. On top of this all, Haley's mother frequently arrives at Haley and Lewis' home to escape her new boyfriend and Haley's younger brothers also often need a safe place to stay. Haley is most upset because Crystal has witnessed her and Lewis arguing and shouting at each other.

<https://vimeo.com/copmi/review/278294350/1cd4fd38b5>

