

Case Study

John is 24 years old; he is currently in Prison for assault against his partner and is due for release next month. He plans to return to live with his partner Sally and their two children. He will be instructed to complete a domestic abuse programme as part of his post-release conditions.

John's parents separated when he was three years old, he and his two siblings stayed with their mother, but maintained regular contact with their father. His mother remarried when John was 4 years old and his step father was physically abusive to both his mother and the children. His mother turned to Class A drugs use as a way to escape. Her drug use had an impact on her parenting and the children were often left hungry and to fend for themselves.

John moved out of home when he was 15 years old following an incident where he was alleged to have assaulted his mother. The police were called however no criminal prosecutions were ever filed. After leaving home John spent a period of time staying with friends until 16 when he moved in with his girlfriend. After six months the relationship broke down. John found out that she had been unfaithful and he threatened to punch her in the face and damaged her TV. As a result his girlfriend's asked John to leave.

John was first arrested aged 16 for possession of cannabis and received a fine. At 17 he was sentenced to custody for dealing cannabis and assaulting a male in a nightclub. When released from prison he met Sally and she quickly moved in with him. John began to turn things around; he stopped smoking cannabis, got back into work and told his Responsible Officer that that he was really embarrassed by the fact that he could not recall the assault as he had been so drunk that night.

Sally became pregnant and they had their first son Peter within a year of John release from custody. Social care received a referral from the police stating that John had pushed Sally and slapped her round the face, with six month old Peter in her arms at the time. Sally did not support conviction and John was not prosecuted. Children's Social Care conducted an assessment and was satisfied that Sally was able to protect Peter.

By the time Peter was five years old John had been arrested again twice for assaults against Sally. By the time their second child, James, was born, John was back in prison on remand for an assault against Sally (John punched her and squeezed her throat), possession of an offensive weapon and breach of a DVPO.

Sally has been visiting John in prison and wishes for him to return home and wants to support him to address his behaviour.