

A community staff nurse within the School Nursing team worked with a family who had been the subject of three referrals to Children's Services in relation to concerns about Charlie's* mother drinking excessively, domestic abuse, which Charlie had observed, and Charlie displaying behaviours which were resulting in disengagement from education.

Charlie had a raised Body Mass Index (BMI) and it had been identified that there was little access to healthy foods in the home. A Children & Families Assessment had been undertaken by Children's Services, but Charlie disclosed to the nurse that their mother had "lied about everything" and the outcome was for the case to be allocated to Early Help. A family support worker was supporting the family, but Charlie was concerned that their mother would continue to lie and thus the situation would not improve. The nurse continued to engage with Charlie and support them alongside the family support worker and identified that the situation was not improving despite significant input and support.

In view of increasing concerns that Charlie had been permanently excluded from school, was at risk of criminal exploitation and was observing increasing levels of alcohol use and domestic abuse, the nurse sought advice and support from the safeguarding team. A plan was made to utilise the Neglect Toolkit and threshold charts contained within, to understand the impact of the behaviours on Charlie. This along with the use of the "Day in my Life" tool with the young person informed an Inter-Agency Referral Form (IARF) to Children's Services detailing the different areas of neglect that Charlie was enduring.

Following the comprehensive and informative IRAF, which captured the lived experience and voice of the child well, the family were opened to Children's Services and a Child in Need (CIN) plan commenced. Charlie remains the subject of a CIN plan and work is ongoing with the family.

**Pseudonym*