
Head Teachers' Leadership Academy | Scenarios

Kate and Andrew

Kate and Andrew are young parents with a young baby Emma, who is three months old. They have both had difficult family lives and have no wider family support. There have been previous concerns due to their circumstances and backgrounds, but their care for Emma is good and they clearly love the baby and are trying their best.

A health visitor visits their flat. Andrew is sitting at a table polishing a large sword. She notices that Andrew keeps swords of different sizes in a locked cabinet. Andrew volunteers they are for display and are for sentimental value only.

The health visitor has a good relationship with Kate. She is aware that Kate is care-experienced and is fearful that Emma might be taken in to care if she does not show that she is a good parent. She appears nervous and fearful.

Two days later a local shopworker phones social work as he is concerned. He wishes to remain anonymous – Kate and Andrew have been in the shop on several occasions, and he is worried about how Andrew speaks to Kate. He added that he saw them arguing recently and he spat at her. The shopworker knows Andrew's family and is fearful of reprisals if he goes public on what he has witnessed.

The information from the health visitor and the shopworker is sitting on your desk. What's your plan?

