

Case scenario: Fatimah and Leon

Fatimah is a 26 years old, British Asian woman of Muslim faith. She has been married to Leon, a black British male, for two years. They have a young daughter together called Aaliyah, who is aged 18 months. Fatimah and Leon have a rather 'stormy' relationship and she has threatened to leave him on more than one occasion.

Leon can be emotionally abusive, particularly when under the influence of alcohol and drugs, and is often critical of Fatimah's faith. Fatimah went against her family's plans to have an arranged marriage and this means that they do not like Leon and want the relationship to end.

Fatimah met Leon through her best friend Alice, who she sees every week. Alice and Fatimah went to school together and regularly meet up at the local family centre where Alice works.

Fatimah would like to go back to her studies and has said that she wants to go to university to train to become a nurse; however, Leon is unhappy about her plans because he feels he will not be able to care for Aaliyah on his own.

Leon suffers with depression and whilst this is normally regulated with medication, he has experienced relapses when forgetting to take his tablets. This has affected his employability and has led to him being out of work for the last six months.

Leon did not perform well at school and left with no qualifications. Consequently, he has found it difficult to find employment and has had to take any work that he is offered. He has found being a parent quite difficult and often feels anxious about his parenting skills.

One day Fatimah and Aaliyah arrive at your office in a great deal of distress. Fatimah says that she has left Leon and has nowhere to go. The housing association where they live is going to evict them for non-payment of rent.

Fatimah says that she has been unable to pay the rent because Leon has been using the money for drugs and alcohol. She had argued with him about this, but he insisted that he didn't have a problem. She says that whilst she still loves Leon, she does not want to live with him when he cannot be supportive to her and Aaliyah. She

says that she regularly tells him to take his medication but, when he is under the influence, he forgets to do so. This leads to arguments and lots of shouting which she is concerned will be having an effect on Aaliyah.

Questions and discussion

You have recently been allocated this case. What factors would you need to consider?

What would your first actions be and why?

Would you plan to work individually with Fatimah and Leon?

Which professionals and services would need to be involved?

Which legislation applies to this case scenario?

How might the new Coronavirus (COVID-19) changes to the Care Act 2014 affect your intervention and assessment?

What methods of intervention and approaches would you want to use and how would you know if they had been successful?