1. Read each scenario below and note your personal level of concern from 0=no concern to 4=most concern.

2. Move into small groups and:
   - discuss what influenced your ratings and explore the differences and similarities within the group
   - identify what further information would help you to refine your judgement.

  N.B. Access to more information would assist your judgement and decision-making. However, it is often the case that full information is not available at first contact. It will help you to understand your own values about neglect to note how you personally react and to compare your views with those of others.

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**Scenario A: Liam Evans (age 15)**

Records tell us that Liam is 15 years old and that he has a criminal record for offences of damage, violence and theft.

The Youth Offending Team Officer tells us that Liam does not come to his appointments, he is in breach of his supervision order and is likely to go to prison if he continues to non-comply.

The Police say that Liam is ‘a nuisance’.

The secondary school say that he is often absent and when Liam does attend he is late and disruptive in lessons. He never brings his PE kit and goes missing at lunch times, and often presumed to be smoking.

Liam’s mother says she is ‘fed up to the back teeth of him because he brings trouble to her door’.

The Anti-Social Behaviour Team has him listed for discussion at their next case conference meeting.

Liam appears to have a constant cold and a deep, hacking cough, but his GP has not seen him since he was 11 years old.

The local shop owner says that he makes his life a misery with his drunken and abusive behaviour outside his shop late at night.

Neighbours on the estate say that they are fed up of the family, and need to lock garden gates and lock possessions away to keep them safe from Liam.

Youth Services have banned Liam from their activities following an incident where he came into the youth club drunk, disrupted the activities and was suspected to have stolen a coat on his way out.

Rate your level of concern from 0 - 4

Continued ➤
Scenario B: Shireen Evans (age 10)

Shireen’s story

“I like school but sometimes it is just too hard to get up in the mornings, and I would rather stay in bed and watch the telly—especially when it’s a cold day.

Anyway it is embarrassing if I have to go in without the proper uniform on, and I only have one set—I’m not going if I look mucky…sometimes my mum forgets to put it in the wash.

Anyway the teachers get on at me and it shows me up in front of the others...where’s your homework Shireen? Where’s your P.E. kit Shireen? Why weren’t you in school yesterday Shireen? You see my mum doesn’t like writing the letters when I have been off, so I get all the questions.

I did feel really bad this year when all the others in my class got to go to the adventure park and I didn’t, but it was ok because my friend Natasha didn’t go either so we just went around to her house for the day and watched telly.

I love music and dancing and there is a street dance class that goes on at the community centre on a Thursday...me and my friends sometimes watch through the window...it looks great and the woman asked me if I wanted to come in but I didn’t. If my mum had the money she would let me go...I know she would.

I don’t want to ask for too many things anyway because I don’t want to stress my mum. Sometimes when I ask for things she gets cross...not with me but with my dad for not having a proper job...I just don’t ask because it causes arguments, sometimes I can hear them arguing when they think I am asleep.

I love going round to my friends for tea because they all sit down together for a meal and we don’t do that at home. I wish I could have them back over to my house sometimes but it is embarrassing...my mum usually forgets that they are coming...the house is a mess and we end up going for some chips instead…”

Rate your level of concern from 0 - 4

Continued ↓
Scenario C: Lewis Evans (age 8)

Lewis’s Story

“When I grow up I want to be like my dad...big and strong. My favourite thing is watching wrestling on telly. Sometimes me and Liam watch the cage fighting...I want to be a cage fighter when I grow up...I practice on Shirene but she doesn’t like it! We sometimes do wrestling in the school playground - I get in to trouble but I don’t care. My dad says that I need to know how to look after myself and I don’t want the others calling me a wimp. They used to call me names like smelly and stinky, but they don’t come near me now ‘cos I stand up for myself. I can’t be bothered to go to school and my dad says that I don’t have to go if I don’t want...its all boring and it won’t help me in real life. Sometimes my dad takes me on taxiing jobs to the airport instead of going to school and the people give me tips – it’s great!

Sometimes I sneak out at night to meet my mate Danny and they don’t notice that I have gone until ages after...my cousin works in the pizza takeaway and he passes us stuff out of the back door so me and Danny get a real feast!

I sneak back in the house when it’s late and go up to my bedroom and I get away with it without anyone noticing. I once got caught though because me and Danny thought it would be fun to steal some of Liam’s cider and we got drunk and forgot to go home. A police woman found us, took us home and gave my mum and dad a warning – they gave me what for the next day!

Sometimes at the weekend I stay at Danny’s house and it is great. I like it there because they have nice beds with soft sheets on them – they all get a bed each and they don’t have to share like we do. The first time that I stayed at Danny’s I didn’t know what was going on, when I woke up I thought that it was still night ‘cos it was dark and I realised it was because they had curtains up at the bedroom windows...”

Rate your level of concern from 0 - 4