



Records tell us that Troy is 12 years old and that he has been known to children's social care services all his life as a member of a family where there have been ongoing concerns about neglect. They have sketchy records about his father, who has been separated from his mother for many years. Troy is known to see his father occasionally and his paternal grandparents, but is very reluctant to discuss anything to do with his father with social workers.

The focus of social work intervention has, over recent years, been upon the care of his three younger siblings, especially as Troy has been assessed as developing reasonably well. There is now increased social worker activity in relation to his older sister's pregnancy. Troy is rarely at the house when the social worker visits.

Between the ages of 9 and 10 Troy was in contact with a befriender, but the service ceased when his befriender moved away from the area and Troy declined to meet with a different person.

School says Troy has a good attendance and attainment record, although he is often late. He is especially good at English and writes imaginative stories and essays. His teacher is aware of the lack of care at home - it is evident in Troy's clothing, general levels of tiredness and unwillingness to be involved in any discussions that might touch on his home-life. He has some friends in school, but has been known to be involved in fights, often stemming from perceived slights about his mother or family. He is recently showing some signs of loss of interest in schooling.

His mother says Troy is a good boy, but that he doesn't respect Darren which is wrong because he has been 'like a dad to him.'

Troy is underweight for his age and height, but his general health appears to be reasonable, except for his dental health, which is very poor.

Troy has recently occasionally come to the attention of the local community police officer for being on the fringes of a group of young men, older than him, who are suspected of stealing cars.