

## **Case Study: Preventing a child from being taken into care through Edge of Care Services**

The Edge of Care service played a vital role in supporting a family at risk of having their newborn child removed, ultimately preventing the need for statutory intervention. The family had a complex history involving domestic violence and previous child protection concerns. Client A, the mother, had three children from a previous relationship, all of whom had been removed from her care due to concerns of non-accidental injury caused by Client B, her current partner. Despite this, Client A and Client B remained together and became pregnant again.

### **Initial Support Plan:**

Upon learning of the new pregnancy, both parents expressed anxiety about the possibility of their baby being removed from their care. The couple engaged with Edge of Care services early in the pregnancy, hoping to demonstrate their progress in addressing past issues, particularly around domestic violence and mental health. The support plan included:

- Participation in the Grobrain course to develop parenting skills and knowledge of child development.
- Motivational interviewing to identify their values and build their commitment to positive parenting.
- Support with practical aspects of baby care, including breastfeeding and responsive feeding.

### **Crisis and Intervention:**

Throughout the pregnancy and postnatal phase, Edge of Care services provided intensive support to the couple, ensuring they felt capable of caring for their child. The pandemic necessitated creative approaches, including virtual delivery of some sessions. The couple responded well, demonstrating commitment and progress. The service also facilitated discussions around the emotional challenges the mother faced, particularly her fear of becoming too attached to the baby due to concerns about possible removal.

### **Effective Interventions and Outcomes:**

Key interventions by the Edge of Care service included:

- Intensive reassurance and support to boost the couple's confidence in their parenting abilities.
- Regular monitoring of the parents' mental wellbeing, given their history of mental health challenges.
- Practical support for breastfeeding, weaning, and responsive feeding, ensuring the baby's health and development.
- Advocacy with housing, helping the family secure better living conditions through local authority housing.

### **Positive Impact:**

As a result of the Edge of Care intervention, the baby remained in the care of both parents, thriving developmentally and emotionally. The family was closed to the Public Law Outline Process, and the child's name was removed from the Child Protection Register. The parents' commitment, combined with the support provided by Edge of Care services, ensured a positive outcome for the family, preventing the child from being taken into care.