

research in practice

About Michelle and Joel

Michelle and Joel's story

Michelle and Joel Tyndell live in a city. They were both born in Kingston, Jamaica, and moved to the United Kingdom in the 1970s just after they were married. They have been married for 45 years and have two sons, Clinton in Scotland and Daniel, who is 34 and lives with them. Daniel has a learning disability. Michelle gave up work when Daniel was 16 to support him. Joel retired three years ago. Over the years they have sought support through the council but it has never worked very well.

Daniel volunteers at a local charity a few days a week, helping with teas and coffees. He would like to live independently. Joel and Michelle are worried this won't work. Daniel is well known in the local community. He is also known to the police due to a few incidents where he has been violent. Daniel is often misunderstood as it is not immediately clear that he has a learning disability, and people who don't know him can react to his behaviour. This is made worse by racist stereotyping also affecting how people react to him. Daniel has some friends from volunteering and some other friends from the local area.

Joel and Michelle support Daniel to ensure he is washed and dressed appropriately, has had his medication and knows where he needs to be. Sometimes Daniel refuses his medication. Daniel has a mobile phone which he is able to make and receive calls on. Sometimes Michelle drives Daniel and sometimes they take him to the bus. Daniel has his own money but it is not clear what he is spending it on. Michelle and Joel are concerned that Daniel may be giving money to his friends.

Joel and Michelle love their son, however they are exhausted and feel undervalued by providing his care. They have had to make choices to put Daniel first, have few friends and rely on each other. Joel had a heart attack last year and they are fearful about what will happen with Daniel in the future. Before children, Michelle and Joel were keen music fans.

Michelle and Joel recently rang the council and asked for someone to talk to them about their situation.

You are the social worker go out to see Michelle and Joel.

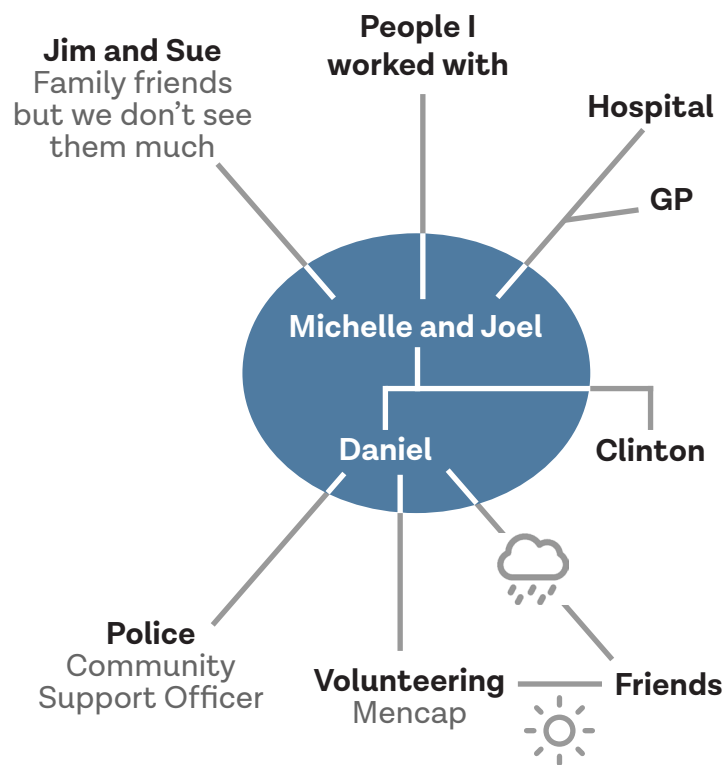
One-page profile - Michelle

What others like and admire about me	What is important to me
<p>I care for my family</p> <p>I have a great sense of humour</p> <p>I am determined</p> <p>I moved to England and I made a life for myself and my family</p> <p>I brought up my boys to be good people</p>	<p>My children</p> <p>My husband – I want him to be with me for a long time</p> <p>To know that Daniel will be looked after when we are gone</p> <p>Daniel and Clinton not getting into any trouble</p>
How best to support me	
<p>To know who will look after Daniel when we are gone</p> <p>To have help that works, not that makes things more difficult</p> <p>Make sure Joel is well</p> <p>Make sure Daniel doesn't get into fights</p> <p>Let me know if I am doing things right</p>	

One-page profile - Joel

What others like and admire about me	What is important to me
<p>I provide for my family</p> <p>I was a good worker and I worked hard</p> <p>People in the neighbourhood respect us</p> <p>I moved to England and I made a life for myself and my family</p>	<p>My sons – I want them to do well in life</p> <p>My wife should have some help</p> <p>I want Daniel to be looked after when we are gone</p> <p>I don't want Daniel to get into trouble with the Police</p> <p>Talking to my friends</p>
How best to support me	
<p>To know what will happen to Daniel when we are gone</p> <p>To have some help for Michelle that gives her a rest</p> <p>Make sure Daniel doesn't get into trouble</p> <p>Don't tell us what to do, suggest things</p> <p>Let me know what you can do, I don't know what help there is</p> <p>Provide advice on support for parents in this situation</p>	

Ecogram



Questions

How does the *Care Act 2014*'s duties around preventing needs help you to plan for the future?

How can you balance the needs of the different family members involved?

How can you ensure your practice is sensitive to any cultural difference?