

Separation and divorce

You've received a referral form for support from Helen's Dad, Roger. Roger has seen a noticeable change in Helen's behaviour over the last month – she's become withdrawn and appears sad and upset. She's no longer completing her homework and seems restless and tired. Roger and her mother have recently decided to separate. Her mum has moved back to Scotland with her younger sister and it seems that Helen, who has a number of older siblings at school, might not be coping with the new situation. Roger has tried to talk to Helen but she's refusing to speak to him.

Key issues

- Mother moving to Scotland with younger sister
- Mother and Father's separated
- Dad's emotions / feelings?
- Helen refusing to communicate with dad.
- Homework issue

Other agencies / workers

- Barnardos
- PSP
- Youth worker / CEIT (depending on age of child)

Action

- Making mother aware of the situation with Helen.
- PSP make contact with dad to support and offer advice.
- Catch up class (tutor)
- Support group for dad
- Helen experiencing new activities
- Reassure Helen and re-build her self-esteem.
- PSP link between dad and child