

# Hertfordshire Families First Case Study



## Howden Family

### A bit about the Howden family

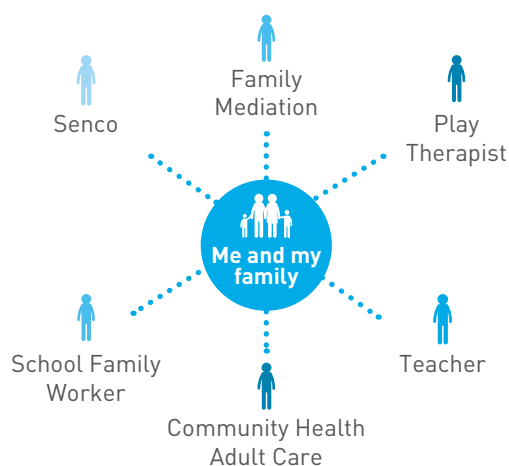
Jay, aged 6, lives with his mother Sonia. Dean, his father, separated from Sonia just before Jay's first birthday. Sonia is originally from Poland; she does not have any family living in England, but has a circle of good friends who support her when needed. Dean suffers with poor health and has had a number of hospital admissions. He is therefore no longer able to work, due to this.

Jay's behaviour has become very challenging, both at home and in school. School suggested that a Families First Assessment be completed to support Jay and his parents. Both Sonia and Dean agreed to the assessment.

Anonymised case study – Key Worker, Local Partnership School Family Worker

### My Support

The team around my family:



### What happened next

The family engaged with the process of completing the assessment. Both parents, and Jay, had the opportunity to talk about their worries and needs. Jay spoke about his feelings of 'not belonging anywhere', not having friends to play with outside of school and how he worries about his Dad when he does not see him. Sonia shared that her relationship with Dean is not good; they argue a lot over money and contact visits.

Team Around the Family (TAF) meetings were held and a family plan put in place to support the needs of Jay and his parents.

### Family feedback

Dean feedback that he is pleased with the outcomes, he feels that Jay is much happier. Although there are still some issues between him and Sonia, they are now able to talk things through.

- Dean

Sonia stated that the Key Worker helped her to get advice about child maintenance and she hopes this will be sorted out soon. She is happy that Jay behaves himself when at home with her.

- Sonia

Jay told his Key Worker that he likes his Mum and Dad now that they play with him and have stopped shouting. He can do forward rolls and handstands with his friend.

- Jay

### What went well



- Jay joined an after school gymnastics group and has made a new friend. His new friend has invited Jay to his birthday party.
- Family mediation allowed Dean and Sonia to talk through their different parenting styles. They acknowledged that working together would help Jay to feel more secure.
- Dean and Sonia also agreed not to speak about their differences in front of, or within earshot of, Jay.
- Play therapy sessions were funded through pupil premium funding. Jay appears more confident and his behaviour is improving.
- Jay is no longer at risk of exclusion.