**Historic Case Study (1995 – 2001)**

In 1995 Alicia was 13 years old and lived at home with her mother. She was known to Social Services; she historically had been on the Child Protection Register (CPR) for neglect. She had a history of poor school attendance and minor injuries.

In May 1995 there were two referrals to Social Services regarding Alicia’s involvement with a 21 year old man. The first referral was from an Aunt of 2 young children who was concerned that Alicia was babysitting them and other young children. The Aunt went onto say that she thought that Alicia was being forced to into having sex with a 21-year-old man.

The second referral came from Alicia’s mother who expressed concern that her daughter was involved with a 21-year-old man. Her mother said that the man is known to “go around with young girls and beat them up.” She added that Alicia will not talk about her relationship with him but is not eating or sleeping and is crying all the time.

The case was allocated, and a strategy meeting took place. The same day Alicia was interviewed by a police officer and her social worker. Alicia denied that she was involved in a sexual relationship with a 21-year-old man. The police report said that “Alicia was a very mature girl for her years who would not disclose the fact that she may have been involved with a 21 year old man on a sexual basis, if she had.” A decision was made to take no further action for lack of evidence. The case was closed one week later. There was no contact with the school.

There was no further involvement between Alicia and social services between 1995–2001. In this time period Alicia’s poor school attendance continued. Alicia attended her GP surgery and A&E on 60 occasions between 1995–2001. Of these:

* 2 appeared to be self-harm
* 5 appeared to be the victim of other people’s violence (in 1999 she fell 10 feet from a balcony)

Only one of these incidents was followed up.

**Questions**

1. How at risk is Alicia? (1 no risk, 10 extreme risk)
2. How were or weren't these risks responded to by adults?
3. How would professionals respond differently today?