**Session 3 – intandem Child Protection Training Exercise 4 (slide 18)**

**Responding Appropriately**

**Case Study A – Disclosure**

Louise (14 years) has a very difficult home life and has very low confidence and self-esteem. She was referred by social work services because of the poor relationships she had at home and because she has been making poor friendship choices in the community. She was charged with vandalism and it was thought she took the blame away from her other three friends who were also with her that night.

Mel has been mentoring Louise for almost 4 months now and the relationship has been developing well. Louise has not re-offended since being on the Programme and she enjoys spending time with Mel. Louise has always made it clear that she dislikes her mum’s partner and tried to avoid being in the house when he is there.

One evening Louise opened up to Mel about her home life, explaining she often argues with her mum about her boyfriend. Louise says her mum works long hours and that she hardly sees her these days. She told Mel that she tried to explain to her mum how her mum’s partner makes her feel but that she doesn’t want to listen to her. Louise explained that then became angry and the pair had a massive fall out. Louise stormed out and was later found drunk in the park with her friends.

Mel had a chat to Louise about the incident and Louise explained that she knows drinking to excess isn’t good for her but it makes her feel better because she can forget about her troubles. Mel had suggested to Louise that she kept a diary, where she could write down her worried and her feelings. That way she was still getting them out. Louise told Mel this was working well for her and that she wrote in it every few days.

Five weeks later Mel was collecting Louise from the house and as she approached the back door, she heard raised voices and what sounded like furniture being thrown. One of the voices was Louise shouting “I hate you, I hate you” over and over again. The other voice was a male’s and he was shouting all sorts of profanities. As Mel reached the back door to knock she heard the male shout “Do I look like I care? You’re not even mine, just a dirty little slut!” Louise was crying and Mel knocked on the door and it swung open with a bang and the male shouted “What!?” in Mel’s face. A little rattled, Mel explained she was there to pick up Louise and the man appeared to relax very quickly, looked at her sceptically then slammed the door in her face, shouting “she isn’t coming today!” Mel took a step back from the door contemplating what to do next when Louise came to the door a few minutes later crying. One side of her face was bright red and the back of her top was ripped. She begged Mel to take her with her.

What should Mel do next?