

QC30 Violence Risk Assessment and Management

Transcript 2: Luke interview

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[MUSIC PLAYING]

STEPHEN STATHIS:

So good morning, Luke. My name is Dr. Stephen Stathis. You can call me Dr. Steve. Thank you for coming today. Your guidance officer has asked me to see you because you've been getting into trouble a bit. There's been some behavioural problems at school and you've recently been suspended. Is that right?

LUKE:

Yeah.

STEPHEN STATHIS:

How do you feel about the suspension, Luke? Is this your first one?

LUKE:

I think it's stupid. It's just really dumb. I don't think I did anything wrong. If anything, the other kids should have been suspended.

STEPHEN STATHIS:

And when you say you didn't feel that you did anything wrong and the other kid should have been suspended, tell me, who was the other kid.

LUKE:

An idiot named Tyson.

STEPHEN STATHIS:

And is Tyson in your grade?

LUKE:

Yep.

STEPHEN STATHIS:

And what led to the suspension between you and Tyson?

LUKE:

I kind of punched him. Yeah.

STEPHEN STATHIS:

When you say punched him, what did you do?

LUKE:

I punched him.

STEPHEN STATHIS:

Once, twice?

LUKE:

I ran up behind him, I punched him in the head. He hit the ground. I kicked him a couple of times for good riddance and then legged it.

STEPHEN STATHIS:	Had you been planning that.
LUKE:	No. Like, he was there. And yeah, I just really angry at him, so I punched him.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	So, you hadn't thought about hitting him beforehand?
LUKE:	Yeah, all the time. But no, I hadn't like been sitting there going, oh, yeah, I'm going to punch Tyson.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	I'm just a little bit confused. So, help me understand. You had been thinking about it, but you hadn't been thinking about it? What do you mean?
LUKE:	So, like, he looked at me funny a couple of days beforehand. He's just been really shit to me this year, and he picks on me all the time and so. And so, I thought about it for a few days, and it was just like sitting in the back of my mind. And then I saw him in the yard the other day, and I just got so angry, and I kind of ran up behind him and I just hit him.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	Do you think you hurt him?
LUKE:	Probably a bit, but I didn't hit him that hard.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	How do you know?
LUKE:	Because if I'd been hit as hard as I hit him, I would have still been standing.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	And you kicked him as well?
LUKE:	Yeah.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	Why did you kick him?
LUKE:	Because he deserved it.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	And you say he deserved it because he looked at you funny a few days ago?
LUKE:	Yeah.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	It wasn't on that day. It was a few days ago.

LUKE:	Yeah, he picks on me all the time I can just tell when he looked at me that he was judging me. He was like, having a joke-- he was going to make a joke, or it was part of something stupid that he was going to tell his friends.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	What do you mean "picks on you?" What does he do when he picks on you?
LUKE:	Like, points out shit that I say and makes fun of it. Or put my hand up in class and all that kind of stuff. I don't know. Just stupid shit.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	Is it just him, or do other people pick on you too?
LUKE:	Oh, like friends and stuff.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	They pick on you too?
LUKE:	Yeah.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	Do they look at you funny?
LUKE:	Yeah, like it's all part of a big, stupid joke to them.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	So why didn't you get into fights with his friends? Why only Tyson?
LUKE:	Oh, I don't know. Because he's the worst. Yeah, like-- I don't know. It just built up. It's just a lot going on this year.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	So do you feel bad then, about what actually happened?
LUKE:	I mean, like I, no, not really. It's shit that I'm getting punished for it, and it's, but I don't feel bad about hitting him. He deserved it. He'd been just pushing and pushing. And he, yeah, he deserved it.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	You said there's been a number of other people who've been teasing you and looking at you funny. Do you think that also deserve being hit?
LUKE:	I mean, if they kept at it like he did. Wouldn't you want to hit someone if they just kept on pushing your buttons and saying stupid shit and just antagonising you all day?
STEPHEN STATHIS:	And that's happened for some time.
LUKE:	Yeah.

STEPHEN STATHIS:	Have you ever planned to hurt anyone at school because of what they're doing to you?
LUKE:	I've thought about hitting people.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	Yeah. Have you ever thought about going further than that. Actually bringing something to school?
LUKE:	No.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	Never thought about bringing a knife or even a gun to school or some other weapon? Would you have access to any of those things?
LUKE:	I mean, wouldn't most people. Most people would have shit lying around their house they could use as a weapon.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	What kind of stuff?
LUKE:	Oh, God, I don't know. You could use a book to beat someone to death. The point is that you know, it's not like I'm stockpiling knives or anything.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	And no one's got any guns that you know of-- your uncle or any friends?
LUKE:	No, no.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	How are things going at school in the classroom?
LUKE:	I mean, school's going fine. I had good grades.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	Grades haven't changed at all this year?
LUKE:	I mean, it's a bit harder to get my schoolwork done now that I'm suspended. But other than that, no.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	I understand there's been a little bit of violence at home. Is that right? Things don't go well between you and Mindy?
LUKE:	Well, no, she just does stupid shit. Like, I know she's, I know she's probably not on the same level as some other kids, like she's got some disabilities and shit. So, she says stupid things all the time. But yeah, she just gets on my nerves eventually. It's hard to keep that in mind when she's just like, pestering you all the time, saying same stupid shit over and over again.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	So then how do you react to that, Luke, when she says the same things again, and again, and again?

LUKE:	It kind of gets really irritating after a while. It just kind of builds up, and I might yell at her and get angry.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	And then what happens?
LUKE:	We might fight every now and then. But it's like stupid sibling shit. Like, siblings fight.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	And then what happens with your mum? I guess there's a fight at home between you and Mindy, and then does mum get involved?
LUKE:	Yeah, every now and then she has to step in and tell us to stop doing stuff. But mum says her own stupid stuff every now and then. Like, she just, like parents do, they just pester you.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	And then what happens there?
LUKE:	You might get into a yelling match, start screaming at each other.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	Just yelling, or does it go further than that?
LUKE:	Yeah, I've like, pushed her a couple of times?
STEPHEN STATHIS:	Ever hit her.
LUKE:	Maybe once, but I would have been really upset. Like, I just really irritated by something she'd said or something like that.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	Can you remember how you felt after you hit her that one time?
LUKE:	It felt kind of bad because, obviously, you don't want to hit your mum.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	Can you remember what led to you going to your uncle's, what specific thing?
LUKE:	I think I just got too much for mum. I think I caused too much trouble, and I was being too angry. And yeah, so she just kind of kicked me out, and I went to live with my uncle.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	Do you feel angry at your mum that you were sent to your uncle's?
LUKE:	I mean, a bit.

STEPHEN STATHIS:	Do you blame her?
LUKE:	Yeah, she made the decision. I didn't have any say in it.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	What about Mindy? Do you blame Mindy because of the stuff going on between you and her?
LUKE:	I think mum probably focused too much on what I was doing wrong. I don't know. It's easy to not blame Mindy. She's special, so it's fine for her to do stupid shit and piss everyone else off.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	That frustrates you.
LUKE:	Yeah. I don't really know what I do to antagonise people. Like, what have I done that's been so shit that people feel like they can just push me around?
STEPHEN STATHIS:	Was there anything-- did you enjoy going and staying with your uncle?
LUKE:	Yeah. I mean, it's a lot more relaxed than it is at home.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	Did you miss a bit of school when you were with your uncle?
LUKE:	A couple of days. Nothing much. I like school.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	Being so relaxed, were there other things that were going on at your uncle's place?
LUKE:	He'd have parties every now and then.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	Anything else happen at your uncle's place?
LUKE:	No, nothing. No, nothing I want to talk about.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	So, there were some other things. But you just don't want to talk about them?
LUKE:	I don't want to talk about it.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	So, you said that you used some alcohol with your friends.
LUKE:	Yeah, drink a bit and go to the park at night.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	Yeah? And that's on weekends or after school?

LUKE:	Mostly on weekends. I don't drink that much.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	And you said it's at the park at night?
LUKE:	Yep.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	Anyone else at the park at night?
LUKE:	No, it's just us.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	And how drunk do you get?
LUKE:	I mean, it's like a third of a bottle of vodka. Just do stupid shit at the park and that's it. We don't really get into any trouble. We're not jumping in traffic or anything.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	And how often does that happen? Just whenever you have access to the alcohol?
LUKE:	Yeah, pretty much.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	Do any of your friends bring drugs or pills to the park?
LUKE:	No, we're not into that shit.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	When you're drinking, say, on the weekend, and you're pretty drunk, what would happen if you met some of those other kids at school?
LUKE:	I don't know. I don't think that would happen.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	Why?
LUKE:	Because I don't live near any of them.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	I imagine it must be hard at school, you feeling that people are talking about you or looking at you strange. How does it affect you?
LUKE:	Just constantly on the lookout now. I'm like, I just kind of expect people are going to be shit, and so, yeah.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	How does that make you feel?
LUKE:	Just irritable, pissed off.

STEPHEN STATHIS:	What do you mean by irritable and pissed off?
LUKE:	I don't know. Just-- yeah. I'm constantly like-- it's easy for me to react now. Like, I'm constantly kind of. I'm worried about what people are going to say.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	Do other things make you worried?
LUKE:	Not really, just people.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	You said you get worried about what people might say. Do you ever get sad about what people might be thinking about you, or does that make you feel sad or unhappy?
LUKE:	Yeah, obviously. If people were being shit to you, you'd feel bad. I don't know if I'd get sad, though. Just unhappy.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	Do you get worried about the future?
LUKE:	Not really.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	What would you like to do in the future after school?
LUKE:	I don't know. Go to uni maybe. Not sure
STEPHEN STATHIS:	But you don't have any specific plans?
LUKE:	No.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	I just want to talk a little bit about your friends, friends that you hang out with on the weekends. Other than hanging out on weekends, do you do anything together?
LUKE:	Just play video games, maybe go to gym. I don't know.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	What kind of video games do you play?
LUKE:	Depends on what console I'm playing on.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	Are a number of the games you play violent?
LUKE:	I mean, those ones are. Not that violent, though, I don't think.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	So, you've mentioned things that you feel you're pretty good at, and that you enjoy doing is gym, and video games, and you enjoy school. Is there anything else?

LUKE:	That's about it.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	Luke, I appreciate that. It's been really helpful. I know from what you said that you've been frustrated by being suspended. And that also, it seems to me, that you have got irritable both at home and at school. I wonder whether after this, I could talk to your case manager, pull together a plan to reduce the risk of you getting angry. Do you think that would be helpful.
LUKE:	Yeah, whatever. I don't mind.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	OK, thanks.
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QC30 Violence Risk Assessment and Management

Transcript 4: Luke collateral (audio only)

Vimeo link: <https://vimeo.com/1182852062/50dfa6f90d?share=copy&fl=sv&fe=ci>

[PHONE RINGING]

JENNY: Hello.

STEPHEN STATHIS: Yeah, hi, Jenny. This is our Dr. Stephen Stathis, speaking from the Child and Youth Mental Health Service. I was hoping to have a chat with you about Luke. Is this a good time?

JENNY: Oh, yeah. Sure.

STEPHEN STATHIS: Luke's case manager let me know that Luke had gotten into some trouble for being aggressive at school, and that he can also be aggressive towards you and your daughter at home. I wanted to take some time to chat with you about Luke's aggression so I can get a sense of how severe it is and what we can do to help Luke with that.

JENNY: Well, he's not a criminal.

STEPHEN STATHIS: Oh, no. No, not at all. This is just a standard process we go through. It's helpful if I can ask a couple of questions, and we'll see if there's anything we can do to help you and your family out.

JENNY: OK, sounds good.

STEPHEN STATHIS: I heard there was an incident at school recently. Can you tell me your understanding of what happened?

JENNY: Well, Luke can fly off the handle a bit. He said what happened at school was because this other kid, Tyson, had been eyeballing him a few days before it all went down. It seems that Tyson and Luke don't get on.

STEPHEN STATHIS: Mm. So Tyson had been staring at Luke a few days prior. What happened after that?

JENNY: He saw Tyson in the oval during lunch, I think. Luke knew Tyson didn't know he was there, so he figured he could get a few hits in. Apparently, Luke hit the kid in the back of the head, and he went straight down.

Luke said he kicked the kid pretty hard in the stomach a few times, then ran off before any teachers could see him. But from what the guidance officer said, it was pretty bad. Apparently, the kid was all curled up on the ground when they found him, just lying there groaning. He didn't try to chase after Luke or anything.

JENNY (cont'd):	Look, they had him taken to the hospital to get checked out. It's my understanding. But there's no broken bones, and all's well that ends well, I guess.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	Oh, gosh. That sounds pretty severe. Is this the first time Luke has done this kind of thing?
JENNY:	Well, he's been in trouble for getting into fights and bullying before. Like, he's been suspended once or twice, and it's really picked up about three years ago, though. I don't know what changed then, but that's when I started getting more phone calls from the school. He's never put anyone in hospital, though. Still, he said this Tyson kid was giving him grief, so he might have deserved it.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	Is Luke only aggressive at school, or does he get aggressive in other contexts, too?
JENNY:	Well, look, he can be pretty angry at home. I'm not sure what he's like with his friends.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	OK. What's Luke aggression looked like at home?
JENNY:	Punching walls, pushing, yelling, slamming doors, that kind of thing. Look, if he's frustrated with school or me, he often takes it out on my daughter, Mindy. I think she's just an easy target. He's been known to put his hands on her when he's frustrated. That really bothers me, to be honest. Mindy has got her own problems, so Luke yelling at her and pushing her around is the last thing she needs. Look, I'm at a loss, really, to know how to stop it. He's getting bigger. He's getting stronger.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	Is he ever aggressive towards you?
JENNY:	Oh, yeah. We get into shouting matches a lot. He's pushed me around a bit, too, to be honest, not as much as he does with Mindy, though. It does worry me. He's always, he's already bigger than I am, and he's a lot stronger. He reminds me a lot of his dad when he's angry, actually.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	What tends to set off his aggression? Is it usually out of the blue, or are there particular things that set him off?
JENNY:	Well, at home, he flies off the handle whenever he doesn't get his own way. If he wants to go out with his friends and I say no, that'll set him off. Also, when I ask him to do things he doesn't want to do, it's like World War 3. I'm not really sure what sets him off at school, though. He tends to assume people are out to get in. So I assume it's pretty easy for other kids to piss him off, even when they don't mean to.

STEPHEN STATHIS:	So are there any particular situations that you know are higher risk for Luke becoming aggressive?
JENNY:	Well, not really. It's hard to know when he'll go off. It will always be the people around him, though, that cop it. It's not like he goes after anyone in particular, except for my daughter, but that's probably because she's always nearby.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	So has Luke always been aggressive?
JENNY:	He was always easily frustrated. Even as a baby, he was hard to settle, always tended to act out when things weren't going his way. Like I said, though, it really picked up about three years ago. But I'm not sure what happened around that time. I assumed it was just all the hormones, you know, with puberty.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	Luke's case manager also mentioned that you were concerned that something might have happened to him at his uncle's. Can you tell me what makes you think that?
JENNY:	Yeah, Danny, you know, he's always willing to-- That's his uncle. He's always willing to lend a hand, but he lives a pretty alternative kind of life. I sent Luke to stay with him for a while, because I just couldn't handle his anger. It was all going fine at first, but after a few months, Luke started saying he kind of hated it. At the end, he was calling every day, begging me to let him come back. He doesn't usually get like that, so I told him he could come home if he kept his behaviour under control.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	Mm. Is there anything specific that you know happened to him there?
JENNY:	Look, he was really funny when it comes to talking about his time there. He's not usually secretive, but he just shuts down when I bring it up. He hasn't been quite the same since coming back. To be honest, he's a bit anxious, more anxious. Like, he'll jump a mile at the smallest thing. He's been spending a lot more time in his room also. Like I poked my head in his room for dinner the other night, and he almost fell off the bed. He also-- his mood seemed to be irritable or uncomfortable. He also mentioned having bad nightmares and a lot of trouble sleeping. I managed to get out of him that he often thinks someone is coming into his room when he's trying to go to sleep, and that he has nightmares about the same thing. I've noticed that he sometimes keeps a light on all night. He likes to be the tough guy, so it's odd that he's acting so scared of his own shadow.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	Do you have any idea of what might have happened to him at Danny's that caused these changes?

JENNY:	Well, as I said, Luke's pretty tight lipped, so it's hard to say. Danny's a good guy, but he's pretty heavy into some drugs. I didn't realise how bad until Luke started telling me what was going on at his place sometimes. I know Danny can have some wild parties. Sometimes he brings some weirdos around to the house as well. I have no idea what kind of things happened there, though. Luke hasn't been the same, though.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	Jenny, do you think you'd approach Danny to take care of Luke again in the future, if you're having trouble managing his behaviour?
JENNY:	Look, not really, not after everything that's gone down. I don't really know how I'll handle him on my own, but sending him back to Danny's doesn't seem like a good idea.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	Yes, it seems like a good idea to keep him out of that environment. I think that's all the questions I wanted to ask you, Jenny. Is there anything else that is important for me to know that I haven't asked you about?
JENNY:	So who do I talk to now, like you or Luke's case manager?
STEPHEN STATHIS:	Yes, that's right. Luke's case manager will be the main person working with Luke. My role is to gather in-depth information about times that he has been violent in the past and factors that might have prompted him to become violent. Then I'll use all that information to come up with strategies to help manage his violence in the future. I'll pass all that on. Thank you for taking the time to talk with me today, Jenny. I really appreciate your input.
JENNY:	Oh, that's no worries at all. Thank you.
STEPHEN STATHIS:	OK, bye.
JENNY:	Bye.
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