



Safeguarding children and young people: Neglect Spring 2020

Neglect deep dive update

The Learning hub is an important two-way feedback loop between front line practitioners and the Strategic Safeguarding leadership Group (SLG), ensuring learning on priority local issues are shared and acted on at all levels in a timely way.

The SLG has decided the next learning theme will be focused on neglect, there will be an audit of local children across Kingston & Richmond in April. A learning event will be held in June sharing the findings and for practitioners to build on our knowledge of how best to identify children earlier and support their families to make changes.

The impact of neglect and other risk factors for children.

Neglect changes childhood.

Children who have been neglected might experience short-term and long-term effects.

These can include:

- Problems with brain development
- Taking risks, like running away from home, using drugs and alcohol or breaking the law
- Getting into dangerous relationships
- Difficulty with relationships later in life, including with their own children
- A higher chance of having mental health problems, including depression.

Children at risk

Any child can suffer neglect. But some children and young people are more at risk than others.

These include children who:

- Are born prematurely
- Have a disability
- Have complex health needs
- Are in care
- Are seeking asylum.

Other problems and life circumstances can make it harder for parents and carers to meet their child's needs. When one or more of these issues occur, it can put a child at risk of neglect.

Traumatic and negative events in childhood, known as Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), have previously been described as, "the single greatest unaddressed public health threat facing our nation today" (Dr. Robert Block).

ACEs include abuse (emotional, physical, sexual); neglect (emotional and physical) and household challenges, such as domestic violence, mental illness and substance misuse. 67% of the population has at least one ACE; one eighth of the population has more than 4. Further reading

<http://www.instituteofhealthequity.org/resources-reports/the-impact-of-adverse-experiences-in-the-home-on-children-and-young-people/impact-of-adverse-experiences-in-the-home.pdf>

Definition of neglect:

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development

(Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2018)

Explaining neglect to children:

Neglect is when you're not properly cared for or supervised by your parents or carers. It can also mean not having the important things you need at home.

How is child neglect measured?

Measuring the scale and nature of child neglect can be difficult because it is usually hidden from view. Adults are not always able to recognise that neglect is taking place. Physical neglect may be more identifiable than other forms of neglect. For example, it may be visible if a child's basic needs, such as food or clothing, are not met. Other types of neglect, such as emotional neglect, are harder to identify as there may be no physical signs of the abuse.

Data released from the Office of National statistics in January 2020

Neglect was the **most common** category of abuse for child protection plans (CPPs) in England (25,330 children at 31 March 2019) Around one-fifth of children in England on a CPP because of neglect were on a plan for **one year or more**, a higher proportion than for other single types of child abuse.

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children's (NSPCC's) helpline received 12,708 contacts from people worried about a child being neglected in the year ending March 2019; around two thirds of these were referred to an external agency, a higher proportion than for other types of child abuse.

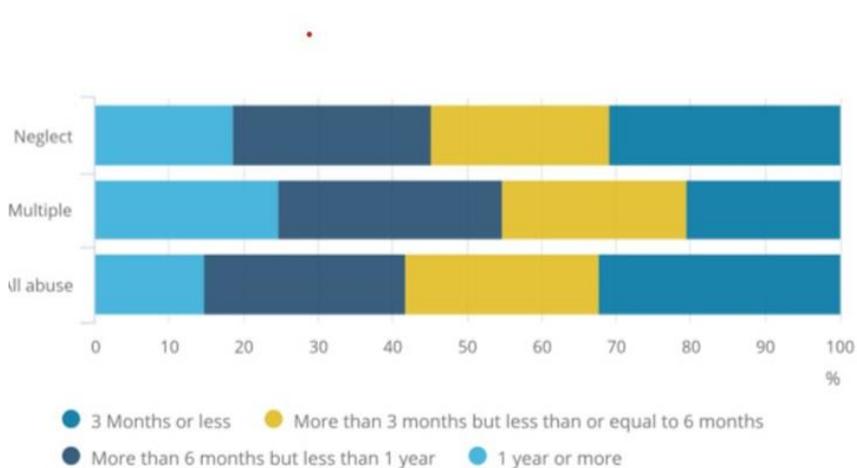
In the year ending March 2019, there were 89,730 assessments in England where neglect was identified as a factor at the end of the assessment

Around one-fifth of children on a child protection plan for neglect were on a plan for one year or more.

At 31 March 2019, around one-fifth (19%) of children in England on a CPP because of neglect were on a plan for one year or more Although this is lower than the proportion of children on CPPs for multiple types of abuse (25%), it is higher than CPPs for other single types of abuse (between 13% and 15%).

Figure 3: Around one-fifth of children on a child protection plan for neglect were on a plan for one year or more

England, year ending March 2019



Call out for more Neglect Champions Needed

The purpose -To raise awareness of neglect within your team and wider organisation.

Ensure that everyone within partner organisations is aware of the training and support available to assist staff.

To ensure that all partners provide a consistent approach across the borough in the prevention, identification and support for children at risk of, or experiencing neglect.

To promote the Neglect Toolkit to be used to identify earlier

The role of a Champion

Circulate our newsletters and prompt conversations

Circulate the Neglect Matters posters and other publicity materials

Use internal communication methods to raise awareness of neglect (e.g. twitter)

Signpost to Safeguarding Partnership training

If you are interested in becoming a champion and would want to know more on this role then please contact Tracey welding

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