

Message from Deborah Lightfoot, LSCB Chair

Welcome to the April edition of the Joint LSCB newsletter where we will focus on neglect. According to NSPCC, the theme of neglect was present in 60% of the 139 case reviews undertaken in 2009-2011. Neglect is much more prevalent in serious case reviews than had previously been understood.

In Kingston, 67 out of 147 (approximately 46%) Child Protection Plans fall under the category of neglect and 42 out of 115 (approximately 37%) for Richmond. I was really grateful to attend a presentation on neglect given to GPs by Sian Thomas (the Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children in Richmond). Please [click here](#) to download the handout on neglect created by Sian.

Key findings from a report produced by Marian Brandon, Sue Bailey, Pippa Belderson and Birgit Larsson on the “*Systematic analysis of neglect in serious case reviews in England*” demonstrated that:

- Neglect needs to be treated with a matter of urgency as much as other categories of maltreatment and can be life threatening;
- Neglect can occur across all ages of children and is not confined to the youngest;
- We all need to bear in mind that a very small minority of cases neglect could be fatal and/or cause serious harm. Practitioners, managers, policy makers and decision makers should discourage minimising the harm that can be caused due to neglect and making sure that they do not let neglect cases drift;
- The aim is to ensure that the child has a healthy living environment and healthy relationships for children.

To read the full report please visit - <http://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/research-and-resources/neglect-serious-case-reviews/>

In this newsletter I would also like to draw your attention to updates the LSCB would like you to note. This newsletter is for all staff working with children, young people and families in Richmond & Kingston. We would be grateful if you could share this with colleagues.

In this edition:

- ➔ Focus on neglect
- ➔ Updates
- ➔ Important dates



What is neglect?

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 defines neglect as:

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. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

- provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment);
- protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger;
- ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers); or
- ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

Neglect can be an abuse which is hard to identify, because it occurs over time without a one serious incident but where there is a pattern of concern about the care of child or young person. A home environment which is inadequate may be a sign that a child /ren are being neglected. Adults who leave their child alone for a long period, persistently ignore them, miss important appointments, allow poor school attendance, or fail to protect their child from danger are risking neglect. Children can be neglected as a result of their parents' domestic abuse, poor mental health or substance misuse. Neglect is more than concerns for physical appearance.

Neglect can have a debilitating and long lasting effect on a child's wellbeing physical, mental, emotional and behavioural development. In some cases the effects could result in permanent disabilities. The effects of neglect may last into adulthood and may cause an individual to neglect their own children late in their life.

Some of the effects of neglect...

The effects of **physical neglect** may include:

- poor muscle tone/prominent joints;
- poor skin condition: sores, rashes, flea bites;
- Swollen or thin tummy
- poor hygiene;
- untreated health problems, such dental decay;
- unwashed clothing;
- inadequate clothing e.g child not having a coat in winter.

The effects of neglect on **behavioural development**:

- Anti-social behaviour;
- Substance misuse;
- Becoming sexually active earlier.

The effects of neglecting on **emotional development**:

- The child may be withdrawn;
- Have difficulties in making friends
- Become anxious.

The effects of neglecting a child's **mental development**:

- A child may face difficulties in school work;
- They may miss school often.

For more information please visit the [NSPCC website](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)

Updates



Launch of the new LSCB Website

The new joint Kingston and Richmond LSCB website is now live. Please visit www.kingstonandrichmondscb.org.uk to find out important and useful information about safeguarding children. Also click on the 'newsletter sign up' button to become part of our mailing list.



New Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015

There is now a new version of Working Together to Safeguard Children which is the Statutory guidance on inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Please [click here](#) to find out more information and download the latest version.



LSCB Training

The LSCB has now produced a brochure on training that you can now download. Please visit [click here](#) to download the latest LSCB Training brochure and also find out more information on training.



Safe From Campaign

A group of young people in Kingston and Richmond organised a campaign to raise awareness about teenage relationship abuse. The LSCB would like to thank the young people for all their hard work and also making the campaign a success. To read more about the campaign please visit www.safefrom.info.

Welcome to the new LSCB Lay Members

Welcome The LSCB would like to welcome Caroline Louise Baker and Rashid Ali Laher as the new Kingston LSCB Lay members!

Important dates to remember

Child Safety Week

Child Safety week will be from **Monday 1 June to Sunday 7 June 2015**. You can find more information by visiting the [Child Safety Week Website](#).