

A Multi-Agency Neglect Strategy

Tackling neglect: one of the three top priorities for the NSCB

In the child's time: professional responses to neglect. Ofsted thematic audit 2014

'The pervasive and long-term cumulative impact of neglect on the well-being of children of all ages is well documented'

- Physical and cognitive development
- Emotional and social well-being
- Mental health and behaviour

Ofsted thematic audit – findings from inspections and research

- Early recognition
- Robust management oversight and supervision
- Specialist training
- Acknowledgement of complexity
- Effective and timely professional responses both for help and protection

Ofsted Inspection 2013

'The issue of neglect is acknowledged by partners interviewed to be a prevalent issue in the county, with partner agencies stressing the importance of appropriate shared responses, but there is as yet no overarching strategy in place to ensure that all agencies' front line services recognise and respond consistently to the issue.'

Strategic Aim

In Norfolk we aim to ensure that there is early recognition of neglect. We will work with families in a positive and empowering way, keeping a clear focus on the impact of neglect on the child.

Core Objectives

- Early identification through improved awareness and understanding of neglect.
- Better assessment and support of children through early help interventions when neglect is identified.
- Improved assessment and intervention when statutory intervention is necessary.

Priority areas of work

- Establishing the profile of neglect in Norfolk
- Awareness raising
- Training at appropriate levels including specialist
- Assessment tools: the Graded Care Profile
- Revising the NSCB practice guidance
- Early Years, Early Help, FSP
- Work with the Family Court, npLaw and Cafcass
- Champions and expert consultation

Timescales



Status: Final

Neglect and Serious Case Reviews (Brandon et al 2013)

'The possibility that in a very small minority of cases neglect will be fatal, or cause grave harm, should be part of a practitioner's mindset. This is not to be alarmist, nor to suggest predicting or presuming that where neglect is found the child is at risk of death.'

Neglect and Serious Case Reviews (contd.)

'Rather, practitioners, managers, policy makers and decision makers should be discouraged from minimizing or downgrading the harm that can come from neglect' and neglect 'should be treated with as much urgency as other categories of maltreatment'.