



Neglect Champions Newsletter

Introduction

Welcome to our Winter 2016 Neglect Champions Newsletter. It's been a busy Autumn with plenty of training opportunities in the area of Neglect which a lot of our Champions have taken up. We have also had several new Champions join us as a result of attending these training events, so welcome to you all.

Neglect Serious Case Review Publication

Norfolk Safeguarding Children Board will soon be publishing a Serious Case Review which focuses on Neglect. We would ask all Neglect Champions to keep an eye out for this and take the time to read the review once published so that those valuable lessons are being disseminated into the workforce.

Use of the Graded Care Profile

We would like to take this opportunity to remind all child care practitioners that all agencies have agreed to use the Graded Care Profile for assessing neglect cases. The guidance on the NSCB website states that.....

In all cases where neglect is the primary cause for concern, whether in universal services, early help, section 17 family support or section 47 child protection services assessments undertaken must include the Graded Care Profile.

Those working in universal services, particularly in the Healthy Child Programme, should complete a Graded Care Profile to include in any referral to MASH.

Once a referral has been received in MASH, if there is a Graded Care Profile completed and there are scores of 5, the case should be referred for further statutory assessment. Subsequent management of all cases of neglect, whether under family support or child protection services, should be informed by the Graded Care Profile.

The GCP should be completed by a practitioner within the multiagency team around the child, building on practitioners' areas of expertise and specialism. Practitioners experienced in use of the GCP can also support team around the child members who are not as familiar with the tool, as to how it contributes to assessments in neglect cases.

There are opportunities for practitioners to complete training on the use of the Graded Care Profile, these are outlined in this newsletter, however, there are large numbers of staff already trained who could offer support and advice if needed.

Practitioners may find the Graded Care Profile useful in supervision and when discussing cases where there is little evidence of change or where there is professional disagreement.



Graded Care Profile Training

The Neglect Steering Group have made the decision to continue with the Graded Care Profile tool already in use in Norfolk and not adopt the NSPCC's GCP2. Two training dates have been booked for 2017 already and these dates are live on the Safeguarding Children Board online booking system.

To book a place go to: <http://www.norfolkscb.org/people-working-with-children/nscb-training/>

Understanding Adolescent Neglect: Troubled Teens - The Children's Society Report

The Children's Society published their report 'Understanding Adolescent Neglect: Troubled Teens. A study of the link between parenting and adolescent neglect' in November 2016.

"[This study] shows that as many as one in seven teenagers have parents that are inattentive to their basic physical care, or provide little support with their education or emotional needs, or rarely show any interest in their social life... [Neglected teenagers] are likely to be unhappier with their lives, to feel that no-one around them cares, to doubt their capabilities and to be pessimistic about the future." (p3).

The report looks at what adolescent neglect is and the scale and consequences of this; parenting behaviours during adolescence and the impact of these on the young people.

The report can be found at: <http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/what-we-do/resources-and-publications/troubled-teens-a-study-of-the-links-between-parenting-and>

Neglect Awareness Plus

We now have several Neglect Champions who have attended the Neglect Awareness Plus training with a view to delivering the training in the future. Future dates for 2017 will be set soon so watch out for these dates being released if you wish to attend this training.

Disability and Neglect Event

Our last Neglect Champions event took place on 29th September 2016 and focused on Disability and Neglect. Delegates had the opportunity to hear from Dr Mel Bruce about children and young people who have a disability and their vulnerabilities to neglect along with the impact on them. They also had the opportunity to hear from a group of Young Carers about their experiences. The session was very well received by delegates.



Video Interactive Guidance (VIG) and Neglect

Video Interactive Guidance (VIG) is a relationship-based intervention to promote attunement, empathy and wellbeing. VIG starts from what the client wants to improve in their relationship with their child and supports them in working out how they can make the changes they want. VIG involves the VIG practitioner and the client using video to help to build a more attuned relationship.

VIG is used in a number of contexts, including with neglected children. A NSPCC project using VIG in the context of child neglect started in 2011 and involved Belfast, Glasgow, Grimsby, Hull, Peterborough, Sheffield and Southampton. The project reported that VIG increased parental communication and involvement with children in the context of neglect. (Please see the link below for further details of this project and other research around the use of VIG to address child neglect). In Norfolk we have also had impressive results; one VIG practitioner recently shared her experience of working with a mother who has served a prison sentence for cruelty and neglect of her previous children. VIG has enabled her to make changes to her narratives around parenting and her relationship with her new baby has improved as a result.

VIG has been widely used in Suffolk for several years and is starting to spread across Norfolk. Multi-agency groups have just been established involving staff from several contexts including Children's Centres, NSFT, the Virtual School for Looked After Children and EPSS (Educational Psychology and Specialist Support). A cross organisational working group around attachment services has recently identified the need to enable further access to training for those interested in becoming VIG practitioners in Norfolk and we will shortly be offering initial training opportunities. If you are interested in developing VIG as a tool to support your work with child neglect, then please take a look at the link below and consider putting yourself forward for training.

<http://vigknowledge.wikispaces.com/space/content?tag=neglect>

Neglect Dashboard

The NSCB has developed a 'data dashboard' to provide the Neglect Steering Group with relevant data that together helps to build a picture of neglect in Norfolk. Ten key indicators have been identified and data is scrutinised on a regular basis in order to monitor the impact of the NSCB Neglect Strategy across Norfolk. Some examples of information contained in the dashboard are: numbers of children subject to child protection plans under the category of neglect, whether the Graded Care Profile has been completed in relevant cases and the number of neglect champions across Norfolk. The dashboard also presents information about children and young people's dental health and engagement with health visiting services. We know there is still more to do in order to build as complete a picture of neglect as possible and would welcome any ideas from partners about key indicators that could be included in the dashboard in future.



Neglect Steering Group

This is a multi-agency group who are tasked with facilitating the roll out of the Neglect Strategy and ensuring that its policies are implemented.

Below are the listed representatives from the partner agencies:

Abigail McGarry—Norfolk Safeguarding Children Board
Sharon Moore—Norfolk Safeguarding Children Board
Andrea Brown—Children's Services
Carol Manning—Children's Services
Rachel Cogman—Children's Services
John Robinson—Children's Services
Kelly Waters—Education
Tina Garwood—Norwich City Council
Gary Dack—Norfolk Constabulary
Pippa Hinds—Norfolk Constabulary
Anne Pringle—NCH&C
Jane Hewitt—NCH&C
Catherine Knox—Designated Safeguarding Children Team (Norfolk and Waveney)
Jane Black—Safeguarding Practitioner
Clare Peak—Family Action—Voluntary Sector Forum Representative
Shirley Green—Action for Children
Alison Bailey—Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital

Contacts:

Abigail McGarry - NSCB Board Manager	01603 223335 abigail.mcgarry@norfolk.gov.uk
Sharon Moore - NSCB Workforce Development Officer	01603 222642 sharon.moore@norfolk.gov.uk

Norfolk Safeguarding Children Board
Room 60
County Hall
Martineau Lane
Norwich
Norfolk
NR1 2DH