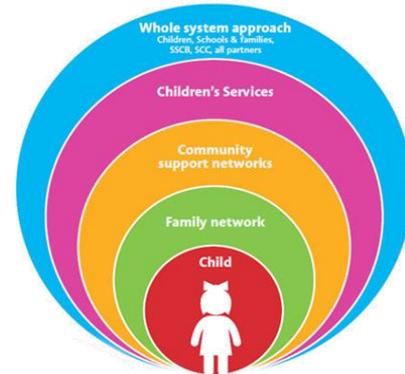


SURREY SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD NEGLECT STRATEGY 2017 - 2020

Why do we need a strategy?

- The NSPCC estimates **1:10 of all children experience neglect**
- The impact of neglect on children and young people is well researched. **Neglect causes great distress to children, can lead to poor health, poor social and educational outcomes and can be fatal.**
- **As of 31 July 2017, 69% of children subject to Child Protection plans in Surrey were under the category of Neglect**
- Two out of the five **published serious case reviews in Surrey in 2016** were on a CP plan under the category of neglect.



Aim of the strategy:

- SSCB aims to prevent and reduce neglect so that children experiencing neglect are identified, supported and have improved outcomes

OBJECTIVES OF THE STRATEGY

Leadership and Organisational Culture:

- All partner agencies to identify, prevent and reduce neglect

Recognition:

- Raise awareness and create a common understanding of neglect across agencies

Early Identification:

- Assessment
- Intervention
- Information sharing
- Agreed thresholds reducing statutory involvement

Workforce Development:

- Collaboration
- Consistency in approach
- Professional curiosity
- Supportive organisational culture

Quality Assurance:

- Creating learning organisations
- Measuring effectiveness
- Involving children, young people, carers and workforce in evaluations

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

Further strengthen our commitment to addressing neglect across all partner agencies:

- Re-launch the Neglect Strategy.
- Understand the extent and prevalence of Neglect in Surrey.
- Develop a Surrey Neglect Toolkit for professionals that enables early identification of Neglect
- To tackle neglect at an early stage work with other strategic boards in Surrey to raise public and community knowledge of the indicators, and where to go for help

Provide support to professionals enabling them to improve their identification, assessment and intervention of children and young people experiencing neglect

- Implement the multi-agency [SSCB Levels of Need](#) and a specialised Neglect Toolkit to promote identification and assessment of neglect ensuring thresholds are clear and unambiguous in relation to neglect
- Contribute to the implementation of the Safer Surrey/Signs of Safety methodology across the partnership to support earlier identification of neglect, a common language and strengths based approach ensuring the child and family is at the centre
- Ensure that an understanding of neglect is embedded in multi-agency and single-agency safeguarding training
- Build upon the mapping of Early Help Services within Surrey to identify what is available to address neglect across the continuum and identify any gaps
- Ensure all partner agencies have current, effective and clear neglect guidance embedded in their practice

Creating learning organisations, measuring effectiveness and involving children, young people, carers and workforce in evaluations

- Monitor and challenge the effectiveness and impact of the Neglect Strategy in reducing Neglect
- Develop a multiagency data set that monitors practice and impact of the neglect strategy
- Liaise closely with the SSCB Quality Assurance Sub-Group and enable multiagency and single agency audits to ensure quality and effectiveness of interventions
- Where learning is identified ensure robust plans are in place and impact of learning being taken into practice.
- Ensure children and young people are central to decision making affecting them at an individual and strategic level.

How will we know we have made a difference?

- Children, young people and families referred for services report that their voices were heard
- Reductions in incidents of neglect whilst acknowledging that figures may initially rise (due to better recognition and awareness) particularly at Early Help levels where neglect is a feature
- Increase in use of Early Help services to support children and families where neglect is a concern
- Reduction over time of children subject to a Child Protection plan due to Neglect in comparison to our statistical neighbours
- Reduction in the number of repeat referrals to Children's Services post Child and Family Assessment where neglect is a feature
- Improvement in school attendance
- The SSCB Neglect toolkit is used by practitioners across Surrey to assess neglect

