

Neglect



Staff Development

In April 2017 NYSCB launched a new wide ranging package of online training to support partners in improving their understanding of neglect working preventatively and identifying resources. Courses include; Awareness of child abuse and neglect; Awareness of child abuse and neglect; Domestic abuse and the impact on children; A new approach to child poverty; Hidden harm; Parental mental health, Collaborative working a whole family approach; Early child development and Teenage pregnancy. These training courses are available to all North Yorkshire staff free of charge.

NYSCB Multi-agency neglect practice guidance document has been developed to provide up to date, relevant information regarding neglect, what works, identify resources and understand current research. The PG includes information regarding indicators of neglect and support for practitioners undertaking assessment.

The Multi-agency developed Vulnerability Checklist, updated in 2016, contains information pertaining to neglect and how this equates to level of service. However neglect currently appears in level three 'specialist services' and consideration is currently being given to whether issues of neglect should appear in level two 'early help and prevention'.

Following the launch of the NYCC prevention service in 2017 all practitioners have been offered a comprehensive training package to ensure they have the relevant skills to ensure

early identification of the signs of neglect and evidence based approaches to supporting families.

All TEWV safeguarding children training includes neglect from signs and symptoms to action required the trust promotes the 'Think Child, Think Parent, Think Family approach in order to help staff think about the potential of child neglect due to parental behaviours.

Airdale NHS trust - Deliver training on neglect on behalf of BSCB which is accessible to all trust staff. The trust also participate in Yorkshire and Humber multi agency safeguarding trainers conference and have as a priority to; Increase staff awareness and knowledge regarding neglect.

NYP have incorporated the theme of neglect into all PCSO training across the force. In addition, the topic of neglect has been made part of a course for Inspectors and supervisors which leads to a Certificate in Neighbourhood Management.

Harrogate District NHS Foundation Hospital Trust (HDFT) Universal 0-19 service offer provides early intervention for families children and young people. This includes joint working with the prevention service and other agencies. This early intervention identifies and supports families where there are concerns about neglect.

All HDFT staff receive safeguarding children training appropriate to their roles as per the Intercollegiate Document (2014) and operate to the NICE guidance, When to suspect child

Staff Development (Cont.)

maltreatment, focussing the identification of abuse or neglect. The level 3 (for all staff working directly with children) safeguarding children training annual update package for 2017 addresses emotional abuse and neglect.

General Practitioners have regular liaison meetings with 0-19 Healthy Child Team where information can be shared around families and children where there are concerns about neglect and joint intervention can be planned to address these concerns.

A number of staff from the HDFT Safeguarding Team and colleagues from the Safeguarding Children Heath Professional Network attended a Masterclass on Neglect in September 2016. The training was provided by Jan Howarth, a leading expert in the field and facilitated by the Designated Nurses safeguarding Children for North Yorkshire.

South tees NHS foundation trust have ensured that all staff are required to attend mandatory safeguarding training on a regular

basis. The organisation has a training strategy which adheres to the Intercollegiate Document (RCPCH 2014). The threshold document is discussed in training. All referrals to Children's Social Care (CSC) are quality assured by the safeguarding team on a daily basis and community midwives all attend for regular supervision within timescales outlined within the supervision policy. They all have direct access to advice and support from the safeguarding team should issues arise between sessions. Staff who don't require regular safeguarding supervision are able to access on an ad hoc basis

All staff employed by the ST NHST have access to the safeguarding children page. This includes all safeguarding policies and procedures and documentation. Information is reviewed and updates added when new information becomes available

The probation service hold regular awareness sessions at team meetings and briefing by SW staff at managers meetings. Staff are in receipt of regular bulletins with updates and SPDR staff objectives specific to safeguarding including neglect

Tools and Resources

TEWV safeguarding team are currently developing a specific training package regarding Neglect and in particular Adolescent neglect

Prevention service have introduced Family group conferencing into the service in the last 12 months with practitioners from the prevention service trained in the approach.

Airedale NHS Foundation Trust Promote staff awareness and ability to capture the voice of the child in the assessment of neglect through use of the three houses model and neglect through the child's eyes. A trust priority is to roll out of signs of safety methodology.

Operation Encompass – although this initiative is focussed on domestic abuse and

the impact this has on children within the family, it provides a platform for a multiagency response to concerns within family settings and raises awareness of potentially vulnerable children.

The 'Child Neglect – Be Professionally Curious' document has been made available to all NYP staff via the Intranet. This has been prepared by the National Multi Agency Child Neglect Strategic Work Group and offers guidance to all investigators and practitioners.

The vulnerability assessment team (VAT) have prepared a comprehensive document, available to all staff, in relation to The Signs of Neglect. This is based on information from the Graded Care Profile and is accessible via the staff intranet.

Multi-agency arrangements

The multi-agency screening team (MAST) is now in operation in North Yorkshire and provides a multi-agency response to concerns regarding the welfare of children, including child abuse and neglect – specifically in relation to early identification and prevention.

DCS offer practical support and short breaks which meet the assessed needs of disabled children and their families and which help support or sustain a family in their caring role. This legal duty is contained in the Short Breaks Guidance and the 1970 CSDP Act.

The Integrated family support service practices a whole family approach offering practical support and parenting advice. The 'developing stronger families' outcomes have been mainstreamed in this service.

NYCC No Wrong Door project provides 24 hour support to young people and to carers which includes activities with young people; portfolios, multi systemic therapy, mellow parenting and other parenting programmes.

Child in need and s.17 (CA 1989) support including financial support, social work assessments and support, supervision of contact arrangements, safety planning, family group conferencing, charitable applications,

monitoring & reviewing home conditions, coordination care plans with other agencies.

The Prevention service for vulnerable children offers; parenting programmes, auditing programmes, signs of safety mapping of cases, multi-agency partnership working, multi-agency screening team (MAST) screening of referrals and step down processes.

North Yorkshire Police have undertaken to investigate all reports made regarding neglect and make appropriate referrals to local authority Children's Services and any other appropriate agencies

Significant work has taken place over the last 12 months in relation to ensuring that Police Officers and staff are in a position to make appropriate referrals to Children's Services when concerns have been raised regarding the welfare of children when encountering children and entering properties. This has included awareness raising, specific training in relation to child abuse and neglect, and understanding the support that the VAT and the MAST can offer officers and staff. This work will continue into the next 12 months.

Young People

CFS prevention service make contact with all young people who are reported to the Police as missing and are not open to any other service: To discuss the circumstances around them going missing and to identify if there are any on-going support needs. We offer a dedicated worker to work with the family to develop a Family Plan to look at reducing missing episodes and any other assessed needs. Young people have access to a caseworker outside the family context and can draw upon specialist area in the inclusive education service as appropriate to

the needs of the young person they are supporting.

CFS prevention services works with young people in a targeted way co-ordinated via an agreed plan and offers a range of targeted group work focussing on positive relationships, identity, and risky behaviours. Support is provided to children and young people who are educated at home (EHE) through the offer of an offer of a joint visit (with the healthy child service) to all children and young people when they first start being home educated and the offer of an annual

Young People (Cont.)

review visit. We offer advice and guidance for families around access to appropriate services and a co-ordinated response with the inclusive education service and involvement of specialist staff, as appropriate to the needs of the child or young person. The service offers a specific programme of support for teenage parents and pregnant teenagers which includes a series of home visits to support parenting. Support around antenatal health and attendance at medical appointments is offered and access to a range of universal services alongside supporting sustained school attendance and attainment. Targeted support is available to children and young people who are identified as carers and have been assessed as having additional support needs: a caseworker is allocated to work with the child, young person and family on the development and delivery of an agreed family plan supporting improved school attendance and attainment, promoting health and wellbeing and where appropriate additional support to access targeted group provision.

HDFT provide services to Looked After

Children located within North Yorkshire and 0-19 Practitioners carry out the statutory Review Health Assessments as per HDFT Policy. Looked After Children have early referral to Dental services in order to access assessment treatment and advice. Practitioners working with families, children and young people offer advice, support, information and referral where appropriate depending upon the level of need identified as Universal, Universal Plus or Universal Partnership Plus.

Health needs are assessed and further work with families is based on identified need. Joint working is undertaken where required and referrals made to other services / agencies where appropriate, i.e. step up , step down, young carers, IDAS , Compass reach, GP etc.

Initiatives such as Bookstart are promoted by 0-5 practitioners with all families in line with the national programme. The programme assists with the development of attachment, and encourages social and emotional development.

Drop ins / Pop ins are operated in Secondary Schools by the 0-19 Healthy Child team to allow young people to self refer into services

Multi-Agency Developments

Disabled children's services have worked to identify those young people in scope, (in respect of neglect with the launch of the JTAI) including those young people where services have helped address and alleviate neglect to ensure that services are appropriate and continue to meet need.

The prevention service has undertaken significant further development of the prevention service offer, expansion of the 'No Wrong Door' project and have robust arrangements in place with Children's Social

Care to facilitate case discussions enabling seamless transitions as families move between the two services. There is now a single referral process and screening through the multi-agency screening team.

There is a dedicated Midwife for supporting teenage parenting as part of the Teen Parenting Pathway. Three specialist health visitors have also been employed as part of this pathway to support the 0-19 practitioners in providing a targeted Teen Parenting service.

Multi-Agency Developments (Cont.)

The 0-5 Home Safety Multi Agency Integrated Pathway looking at safety within the home has been implemented by the 0-5 Healthy Child service. The aim is to reduce unintentional injuries that could be caused by a variety of risks, lack of supervision being one of the risks.

The HENRY (Healthy Exercise and Nutrition in the Really Young) Framework is being implemented by 0-19 service. Staff have been trained to deliver a programme to address issues regarding their approach to food, activity and emotional well being.

Peer safeguarding children supervisors providing were given training in "Sandstories" to assist practitioners in the identification of

neglect through raising awareness of the hidden risks of neglect in supervision. Particularly focussing on children who are not seen or heard.

Interactive Safeguarding Children training using simulated child models is in development for the midwifery service, the focus will be on neglect.

Harrogate and district foundation seek to facilitate joint working arrangement in relation to the development of understanding with the Children and Families Service, specifically to explore issues in relation to thresholds for escalation in cases of medical / dental neglect where agencies may have differing views and to promote multi agency understanding of the impact of medical neglect. HDFT would seek to ensure that health professionals are included as part of the "step up process" when cases involve medical neglect.

Disruption/Prevention

A NYSCB multi-agency audit of child protection cases was undertaken with disabled children's service in 2016. The audit highlighted that through the provision of short break or practical services DCS support vulnerable families in a way that the traditional offer of Family Support by C&FS or Prevention cannot achieve with targeted, time-limited interventions. In so doing we prevent family breakdown, retain disabled children in their families, schools and communities. DCS believe that this works and the reduction in the number of disabled children entering the Looked After system is evidence of the success of this approach.

TEWV trust promotes the identification and offer of early help services to all families where either children or adults with mental health concerns may place additional needs on children and families.

Prevention service will allocate a worker who will work with the family to look at building on strengths and addressing any identified risk through home visiting, family assessment and the development of a whole family plan

Where there are attendance issues, an allocated caseworker will work with the child, young person and family to support good school attendance (goals being set within the Family Action Plan) offering home-to-school liaison For those identified by school as being at risk of permanent exclusion, where appropriate, a Family Group Conference will be offered.

We deliver a range of parenting Courses which are targeted to effectively meet needs of children young people and families supporting the social and emotional relationship and parenting strategies. These include

Disruption and Prevention

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Baby Room parents project (pre-birth – 6 months), Family Links Nurturing Programme (age 2- 12), Incredible Years baby and toddler (pre-birth – 3), Incredible years school (age 6 -12), Strengthening Families (age 10 -14)

South Tees NHS foundation trust have developed;

The Child Not Brought Policy has been introduced in response to a SCR. This is to ensure that staff are aware that children do not DNA and the focus being on the adults not the child. The organisation reports on a weekly basis how many children are not brought to appointments

Quality Assurance Rounds are undertaken by the safeguarding children's team. This consists of 10 questions that relate to safeguarding.

Training for volunteers has been identified as a need and there is an action plan in place to ensure that this cohort receive the appropriate training.

Safeguarding team visibility in A&E, SSPAU and maternity has been increased and a named midwife has been appointed alongside a strategic lead for children and young people (Consultant Paediatrician).

South Tees NHSFT would like to develop procedures around concealed pregnancies.

The probation service aim to raise the profile of neglect as a specific area in child safeguarding and get more ownership from front line staff to engage with external partnership meetings

Areas for Consideration

CSC are currently undertaking a case file audit of neglect cases to ensure there is full identification of all issues of neglect in all assessments and plans for children. This audit will be further enhanced by an additional NYSCB multi-agency 'deep dive' practitioner audit of four of the cases. Multi-agency partners would like to achieve a reduction in the numbers of children who require child protection plans due to neglect by ensuring that safeguarding remains a key priority, identifying where neglect is a feature of family life and putting in appropriate support for children and families.

Tees Esk and Wear Valley NHS trust (TEWV) intend to raise awareness throughout the workforce in particular around adolescent neglect and to develop a level 3 training package which will consider the use of graded care tools to aid early identification in CAMHS. TEWV would like to undertake multi-agency consideration regarding the use of graded care tools to ensure all agencies are working to the same thresholds. A further priority is consideration and early identification of older children who are Neglected.