

7 Minute Briefing

Child Multi-Agency Audit – Neglect

What can you do now?

- Where you are working with a child who is experiencing neglect, ensure there is good communication between other relevant professionals.
- Ensure that interpreters are used consistently when working with a child and their family
- GCP2 is the evidenced based tool to support your work with children and families. Ensure you are using GCP2 in your practice.
- If you require GCP2 Training please book onto one of our [forthcoming dates](#)
- If you would like to book on Understanding Neglect training please click [here](#)

Background

As part of the Walsall Safeguarding Partnership multi-agency audit calendar for 2020-2021 an audit on Neglect took place April – June 2021 to support the development of the refreshed Walsall Neglect Strategy and the panel met to analyse the findings on 25 June 2021

Children were known to the following

agencies:
Walsall Children’s Social Care (CSC)
Walsall Early Help
Walsall Healthcare Trust (Health visiting)
West Midlands Police Black Country Healthcare Trust GPs

Aim of the audit

This audit reviewed how effective the multi-agency partnership is in addressing the needs and safeguarding concerns for children experiencing Neglect by exploring the following questions:

- Was neglect recognised and responded to at the earliest stage?
- Was the impact of neglect onto the child understood?
- Did agencies respond to disguised compliance, non-engagement
- Was engagement meaningful
- Do agencies work together effectively?
- Do actions taken make a positive difference to the child’s lived experience?

Case Selection and grade

The sample of cases was randomly selected and comprised of five children under 5 years old and were known to CSC

Overall the multi-agency team determined that, **within the last 6 months**, the practice for four of the audits was **requires improvement**

and for one audit was **good**.



Summary

Overall practitioners were able to identify neglect appropriately and referrals to CSC were appropriate. There was a clear understanding of neglect by practitioners and a focus on the impact.

Audits highlighted some good quality relationship-based working from involved professionals However there is a need for work to be better coordinated as a multi-agency approach to

Areas for Development

Assessments were largely undertaken as a single agency activity with limited input from

the professional network around a child.

- Plans tended to assign actions to individual

agencies, but there was limited full collaboration in developing a shared plan where there are goals that agencies work together and with the family to achieve.

- Updated plans were not routinely shared with relevant partners
- There were examples of effective communication and collaborative working, but this was not consistent
- It was not apparent in some instances that the child’s plan was reviewed and changed in a timely way, and rather the same plan was maintained and continued to shape the work done.
- Interpreters were not consistently used when working with a child and their family where English is not their first language.

Good Practice

Individual agencies and practitioners in the audits had a good understanding of the

child’s needs and what life was like for them, and showed skill and tenacity in working with families where neglect was

a concern, and professionals had been involved over a long period.

- For the majority of the children who were the focus of these audits, their circumstances and experiences had improved. For the one child where this was not the case, the step up to Children’s Social Care was still recent, and the Child in Need Plan was progressing
- Assessments were timely and purposeful in capturing the experiences and impact of neglect for a child.
- The level of communication and engagement between professionals was good for the two children considered that were, or had recently been, on Child Protection Plans.

understanding and assessment.

There was also limited use of the Graded Care Profile 2 tool for assessing and

working towards change where neglect is the key concern