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BACKGROUND

Published case reviews highlight that professionals face a big challenge in identifying & taking timely action on neglect. This briefing is based on case reviews published since 2014 where neglect was a key factor. It pulls together the learning contained in the published reports and stresses that professionals from all agencies must be able to recognise both physical and emotional neglect, understand the impact of cumulative and long term effects of neglect and take timely action to safeguard children and young people.



NEGLECT – Learning From Serious Case Reviews



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WHY IT MATTERS

NEGLECT is a serious form of harm. It can be life threatening & should be treated with as much urgency as other forms of child abuse. Both families and professionals can become overwhelmed and demoralised by issues of neglect. Children may experience repeated unsuccessful attempts by professionals to try and improve the situation.

Neglect is a factor in 60% of Serious Case Reviews

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WHAT TO DO

- Take neglect seriously.
- Understand roles & thresholds,
- Use the Bradford Continuum of Need and Risk Identification Tool [Continuum of Need](#)
- Articulate & share concerns.
- Challenge/escalate if necessary.

[Bradford Partnership Neglect resources](#)

[Bradford Learning Review - Alice](#)

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INFORMATION

- Be aware of children who are more vulnerable to neglect – new born babies, premature babies, babies with ongoing health needs & teenagers
- Monitor & understand the significance of missed medical appointments
- Pay attention to accidents and injuries - they may indicate a lack of supervision or living in an unsafe home.
- Be aware of the complexity of a household and assess cumulative risk of the vulnerabilities and all adults in the home

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QUESTIONS

- Is the child at risk of significant harm?
- What is daily life like for the child?
- What is the impact on the child?
- How have concerns been raised with the family and how?
- What is the plan and what difference is it making?
- Are there signs of disguised compliance?

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INFORMATION

- Provide early evidence based assessment & intervention including pre-birth assessments.
- Undertake robust and comprehensive assessments
- Focus on the need to improve the child's daily lived experience If improvements are not sustained, professionals must decide whether legal proceedings are needed to protect the child.

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INFORMATION

- Have the confidence & knowledge to effectively assess parental capability to change Be clear with parents about what needs to change & by when & respectfully challenge if they fail to follow formal agreements
- See the bigger picture & understand the long term impact of neglect
- Use staff supervision to avoid case drift