



The ten children chosen for this audit were aged between 6 months and 13 years old at the time of the audit.

The children have a range of needs and experiences including physical health needs, domestic abuse, parental substance misuse, parental mental health, school attendance, autism and being a young carer



The audit of 17th September 2024 reviewed the records of ten children where there is a child protection plan under the category of neglect. The aim of the audit was to ascertain whether there were good multi-agency standards for managing cases and whether organisations have implemented a robust and consistent response in line with statutory and good practice guidance, and the Children's Partnership policies and procedures.



Organisations that audited their involvement with the ten children were: GPs, Social Care, Sirona, NBT, AWP, Next Link, Police, YJS, EDT and Preventative Services, Education.

What we are worried about?

- New baby not mentioned in Core group meetings and 'lost' in issues for older children, false reassurance for professionals as on a CP plan.
- Gap in registration with GP for a baby with complex needs and no immunisations
- Neglect not **named** as the concern for all of the children.
- No evidence of what a day in the life of a child was like for one child
- Missed visits/appointments and no follow up when support is declined
- Lack of trauma informed approach working with a mum
- Meetings not always quorate – 'health' missing when there are health conditions for the child
- Escalation following this audit of a child who has been on a CP plan for most of their life
- Description of home conditions and living situation but not what the impact is for the child
- No locked box available for drugs in the home
- Social care involvement led to other agencies feeling assured and being less vigilant
- Limited contact with midwifery for unborn child – strategy discussion recommended but did not take place

What Good Practice did we see?

- Good information sharing, and flag for CP, but not named as neglect
- Dad's voice included in plans
- Good multi agency working
- Good relationship between school and social care



Themes for Learning: Domestic Abuse and Neglect

- All of the children included in this audit for child protection and neglect live in households where domestic abuse is a feature
- Voice of child not always captured and current impact of neglect and domestic abuse not recorded
- Vital to be considering what a day in the life for a child is like
- Denial and minimising risk and the impact by parents was a feature and increased delay in change for the child
- Over optimism when small changes happen which don't impact the daily experience for the child

Domestic Abuse Training – this is for practitioners from all agencies
Click for more

Neglect needs to be named when this is the worry for a child

School attendance was low for the school age children in this audit

Children should not be considered as a protective factor for an adult

Themes for Learning
What we found: Neglect is not being named as the concern

- The audits found that the concerns about the neglect were not being named in records or shared with the family
- There needs to be evidence recorded of the impact of the neglect

What needs to Happen?

- Consider the use of multi agency chronologies when there is neglect
- Improved confidence for professionals in order to be able to talk to families about neglect
- Use of tools to help families understand the concerns
- Clear information needs to be given to families about the risks, the worries and the impact for children of neglect

Click for Neglect tools and resources

Ten cases were audited by the multi agency group and seven of these were discussed during the audit meeting