



June 2018

Message from Chris Robson, LSCB Chair

I am excited this month to be launching our 3 year LSCB multi-agency neglect strategy for Kingston and Richmond. Neglect remains a persistent challenge for all practitioners in the UK, and we hope to support you in working with this issue in our local families. We have had local learning and improvement case reviews which have picked up the identification of neglect as a key theme. We have also refreshed our neglect toolkit – visit: <http://kingstonandrichmondscb.org.uk/practitioners/what-is-child-abuse-and-neglect-113/neglect-128.php>

What is Neglect?

Neglect is defined as ‘**The persistent failure to meet a child’s basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child’s health or development**’.

Neglect is the **most commonly reported** form of child maltreatment. It is consistently cited as the **most common reason** for a child to be subject to a child protection plan or placed on a child protection register. It is said to be the form of maltreatment that is most likely to **recur multiple times**.

The impact of neglect on children and young people **is enormous**. Neglect causes great distress to children, leading to poor health, educational and social outcomes and is potentially fatal. Lives are destroyed, children’s abilities to make secure attachments are affected and their ability to attend and attain at school is reduced. Their emotional health and well-being is often compromised and this impacts on their success in adulthood and their ability to parent in the future.



What can we do about Neglect?

Our multi-agency partners on the LSCB have developed this **Neglect Strategy** for both boroughs, setting out Kingston and Richmond's approach to tackling neglect. The overarching **aim** of the strategy is to ensure the **early recognition of neglect** and **improved responses** to it by all agencies, so that the life chances of children are promptly improved and the risk of harm reduced. This strategy is our shared **commitment to focus our efforts to improve identification** of children experiencing neglect and to join up support offered to our families more effectively. Visit: <http://kingstonandrichmondscb.org.uk/practitioners/what-is-child-abuse-and-neglect-113/neglect-128.php>

The Neglect toolkit has been **refreshed** in light of Neglect issues being highlighted in recent **Serious Case Reviews and Learning Lessons**, nationally and in the Boroughs of Kingston and Richmond, include poor supervision, children not being brought to medical appointments, numerous moves, lack of attention to children's needs including hygiene and basic needs in children under the age of 5.

It is hoped the toolkit will assist all practitioners in identifying neglect **earlier**, help with the sometimes difficult conversation with parents and help with referrals to Children Social Care (SPA). Visit:

http://kingstonandrichmondscb.org.uk/media/upload/fck/file/Kingston%20&%20Richmond%20LSCB%20Child%20Neglect%20toolkit%20F%20_2018.doc

I would **urge** all practitioners to read the Neglect strategy and to use the Neglect Toolkit to assist swift identification and protection for our Children and Young people .

Additional Resources on Neglect

Goldsmiths has provided some research about working with affluent families where there are concerns for neglect. This is a key local issue. Read it here:

www.gold.ac.uk/media/documents-by-section/departments/social-therapeutic-and-comms-studies/Report--Neglect-in-Affluent-Families-1-December-2017.pdf

We have tools for practitioners in our Neglect Huddle here:

<http://kingstonandrichmondscb.org.uk/practitioners/what-is-child-abuse-and-neglect-113/neglect-128.php>

Upcoming LSCB Training

The LSCB offers training courses to all working with children. Here is a list of available courses in July;

- CHILD EXPLOITATION & COUNTY LINES – 04/07/2018
- Safeguarding Children: Child Protection Process Refresher (Level 3) (Kingston) – 09/07/2018
- Young People and Emerging Drug Trends (including Xanax) – 10/07/2018
- LSCB Safeguarding Children: A Shared Responsibility Level 2 (Richmond) – 12/07/2018
- Safeguarding Children: Child Protection Process Level 3 (Kingston) – 16/07/2018
- Youth Mental Health First Aid (Level 3) – 17/07/2018

If you work within education and are interested in going on any of these courses and you can apply here: <https://www.afccpdonline.co.uk/earlyyears/courses/bookings/default.asp?curpage=2>

Otherwise you can apply for any here: <http://kingstonandrichmondscb.org.uk/training.php>