

Terms of Reference

Neglect Steering Group

1. Role and Function of the Assurance and Review Group

In working to safeguard children and young people the Solihull Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP) is striving to ensure all children are protected from violence, abuse and/or neglect. Neglect is one of the most common categories of abuse for child protection plans nationally and locally (pre-COVID). In Solihull child protection plans for neglect make up 75% of those plans which last for 12 months or longer. It is a form of child abuse that can have serious and long-lasting impacts on a child's life.

Neglect has been identified as one of the strategic priorities for the Solihull Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP) for 2022-23. A multi-agency approach has been taken to the development of a new Neglect Strategy and an outline delivery plan has been formulated.

The Neglect Steering Group will provide the necessary leadership and co-ordination to oversee the implementation of the Neglect Strategy across Solihull.

This will be achieved by:

- Securing a collective commitment to addressing and responding to neglect across all partner agencies, including those who do not work directly with children;
- Driving effective leadership in improving the appropriate systems, culture, and process changes in relation to neglect;
- Increasing awareness and understanding of neglect in Solihull for children and their families;
- Developing a common definition of neglect for all partners which includes neglect of older children;
- Ensuring that performance information is available to support the understanding of understanding neglect across Solihull and the lived experience of children where neglect is an issue;
- Developing a Neglect Champions network to share examples of good practice and identify barriers to effective multi-agency working;
- Improving recognition, assessment and response to children and young people living in potentially neglectful situations;
- Ensuring that the endorsed assessment tool Graded Care Profile (GCP2) is being utilised effectively and consistently by practitioners;
- Ensuring that professionals in all agencies have the knowledge and skills to support their practice.

2. Accountability

The Neglect Steering Group is accountable to the three key Safeguarding Partners via the SSCP Executive.

The Neglect Steering Group will be responsible for producing a highlight report to each SSCP Executive meeting to include an overview of what is going well and identification of any barriers to the effective implementation of the Neglect Strategy.

3. Role of Chair/Deputy Chair

The Chair of the Neglect Steering Group should be a strategic lead representing one of the three safeguarding partners: local authority, police, or health.

The Chair of the group will work closely with the SSCP Business Manager to prepare for meetings and set agendas.

The Chair will hold group members to account for attendance, engagement, and the delivery of specific tasks.

The Chair will actively monitor individual attendance by group members and will report on this by exception to the SSCP Executive Group.

The Chair will provide progress reports to the SSCP Executive Group and will identify and report on any barriers to the delivery of the work plan and escalate identified risks.

The Chair will model appropriate behaviours and language at all times.

4. Role of Group Members

Each member of the steering group is responsible for both working on behalf of the Solihull Safeguarding Children Partnership to support the implementation of the Neglect Strategy and for holding their own agency to account for its response to embedding the Strategy into single agency practice.

Group members to ensure they have the support of their line manager/organisation to fulfil the requirements of the role.

Group members will prepare for meetings and come ready to actively engage with discussions.

Group members will positively support with the completion of tasks between meetings when asked to do so by the Chair/Deputy Chair.

Group members will attend all meetings and, in the event that they are unable to do so, will identify a suitable person from their agency to attend on their behalf.

Group members will be expected to respond in a timely way to communications between meetings.

Group members will model appropriate behaviours and language at all times.

5. Frequency of meetings: Alternate months

6. Administration

Meetings will be administered by the SSCP Business Unit.

The agenda and papers will be circulated at least five working days ahead of the meeting.

Minutes will be produced and circulated within two weeks of the meeting.

7. Membership

Chair – Principle Social Worker, Children's Services

University Hospitals Birmingham

Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health Foundation Trust

West Midlands Police

South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust

Dentistry

Public Health, Solihull MBC

Education – Early Years, Secondary Schools

Youth Justice Service

Primary Care – Named GP

Children’s Social Care (operational lead)

Solihull Community Housing

Community Voluntary Sector

Adult Care and Support

SSCP Business Manager

SSCP Training and Development Officer

SSCP Project Officer

8. Quoracy

Meetings will not be considered to be quorate unless there is representation from all three named safeguarding partners: local authority, police and health.

Developed January 2023