# Neglect Strategy



Listening, Learning and **Improving Outcomes for Children and Young People** 

RESPECTFUL CHALLENGE • ACCOUNTABILITY • LISTENING • LEARNING • INCLUSION

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### **Definition**

Neglect is: 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 may occur during pregnancy because of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

- Provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment)
- Protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger
- Ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate caregivers)
- Ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

### **Strategic Priorities**



Leadership & partnership



**Prevention** 



Intervention



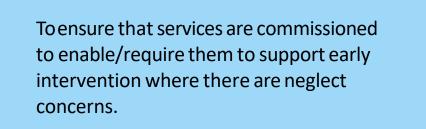
**Professional** challenge & support

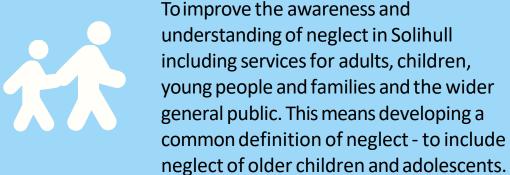
## Multi-agency response to child neglect

In working to safeguard children and young people Solihull Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP) will strive to ensure all children:

- Are protected from violence, abuse or neglect
- Receive an education that enables children, to fulfil their potential
- Are raised by, or have a relationship with, their parents or families
- Are able to express their opinions and be listened to

To secure and sustain a collective commitment to addressing and responding to neglect across all partner agencies, including those who do not work directly with children, and to demonstrate effective leadership in driving the appropriate system, culture and process changes forward.







**STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES** 

To improve the early recognition, assessment and response to children and young people living in neglectful situations. This includes the use of the Early Help Assessment, Graded Care profile 2 (GCP2), appropriate information sharing and agreed thresholds of intervention.

To ensure that professional interventions, when they are necessary to address neglect, are based on good quality assessments and target the root causes of neglect in order to make a tangible difference to the lived experience of children and young people.

To ensure professionals have the knowledge and skills to support their practice and that they receive supervision and management oversight to support reflective practice and critical decision making in neglect cases.

# The impacts of neglect

- It is bad for children's bodies
- It is bad for children's learning
- It is bad for children's brains
- It is bad for children's emotions
- It is bad for children's relationships
- It is bad for our society
- Neglect can cause impairment of health and development and impair aspiration and achievement
- At its worst neglect can KILL

### **Achievements**

Solihull has adopted the GCP2 and holds an NSPCC license to train professionals to assess a parent's capacity to respond to their child's needs and prevent neglect. Solihull has multi- agency early help guidance and procedures.

The SSCP provides a range of multi-agency training modules exploring aspects of neglect.

## **Challenges**

- Building community recognition and understanding to improve early identification
- Keeping a focus on the lived experience of the child to fully understand the cumulative impact of the fluctuating degrees of neglect they endure
- Assessing the complexity and needs of children at different ages and development stages from pre-birth to adolescence
- Encouraging those who have been trained to use GCP2

