

## Multi-agency effectiveness learning briefing

Dudley Safeguarding People Partnership (DSPP) has a duty to evaluate multi-agency working through case file audits involving professionals from across the children's workforce, and in turn, share the learning regarding the quality of practice and lessons for improvements.

A Multi-Agency Case File Audit (MACFA) took place on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2021 which focussed on Neglect

This briefing is to inform how changes can be made to professional practice across the agencies workforce to ensure Dudley's response and support to children and families are effective, robust and consistent.

### **Emerging Themes / Risk Factors identified**

- The use of the Graded Care Profile<sup>2</sup> has not been consistently utilised in Dudley – none of the cases discussed as part of the MACFA had a GCP2 completed.
- There is a need for clarity regarding the responsibilities for the completion of GCP2 where there is social work involvement with a family.
- There is a need to consider how the Partnership identify, understand, assess and respond to issues of neglect.

### **Key messages for inter-agency learning**

- Cross border working, communication and exchange of information needs to be followed so families remain in sight of professionals
- Neglect should not be looked at in isolation, it is often linked with other issues that directly impact on families.
- Neglect can be difficult to identify and is often 'trumped' by other issues children are experiencing.

### **Key points for Managers**

- Developing practice across the partnership to consider neglect as a theme in all assessments. Good assessment practice should have a holistic perspective providing an understanding of neglect, parenting and children's experiences giving consideration to the influence and effect of other issues
- The importance of face-to-face visits and seeing children alone in their home environment should be reinforced
- Practitioners require support to develop strategies and the skills to engage and connect with hard to reach families.

## Key learning points for Practitioners

- There is a need to respond to understand to neglect at the earliest opportunity so that the right support can be provided at the right time for the right children. Use of the Graded Care Profile2 tool at an early stage will assist with this.
- Engagement with a child's wider family network can have a positive outcome on children.
- Due to the Covid-19 pandemic children have not been seen as frequently by professionals, meaning that conditions at home were not observed, had these face to face visits taken place issues could have been responded to sooner.

For more information visit the Child Neglect web page on the DSPP website:  
<https://safeguarding.dudley.gov.uk/safeguarding/child/work-with-children-young-people/child-neglect/>

## More Information

### Multi-Agency Safeguarding Procedures

DSPP operates in partnership with other local areas in the West Midlands for its Multi-Agency safeguarding procedures – these cover a wide variety of situations that may be encountered.

Access the procedures at: <http://westmidlands.procedures.org.uk/>

For more information on Dudley Safeguarding People Partnership, email us or visit our website below:



[DSPPB@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:DSPPB@dudley.gov.uk)



<http://safeguarding.dudley.gov.uk>

