Working Effectively With Neglect

Statistics show that nationally neglect is the most prevalent form of child abuse. It is also one of the most difficult to work with. It is often only picked up when an ‘incident’, e.g. physical abuse, has triggered the need for services. Practitioners report they know what neglect is, yet they frequently fail to recognise the severity or possible consequences of neglect and hence children are often left in neglectful situations for far longer than should be the case.

Professionals must respond to neglect with the same degree of seriousness and urgency as all other forms of child abuse. The earlier we intervene to prevent neglect the better the outcome for the child.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course participants will:

• Be able to recognise signs and symptoms of neglect and respond at the earliest possible stage
• Recognise the need for a shared understanding of all types of neglect in order to maintain consistent working practices
• Be aware of the ‘start again syndrome’, the need to consider historical information and the importance of good recording
• Be able to measure parent/carers’ ability to change
• Understand the importance of considering ‘the lived experience of the child’ when assessing need and developing plans.

Requirements for the course:

Staff should have completed their own agency Basic/Introduction to Safeguarding Children face to face training or the Sheffield Children Safeguarding Partnership Online E-learning Basic Awareness of Child Abuse and Neglect (Core) training.

Length of Course: half day

NB: For Health Care Staff - This course has been identified as meeting the requirements of Level 3 training

Further Information and resources – including on the specific issues of Dental and Adolescent Neglect can be found on the Neglect page of the Sheffield Children Safeguarding Partnership website.