

Item:

**Children and Young People's
Overview and Scrutiny
Committee**

28 March 2019

Neglect in County Durham



Report of Margaret Whellans, Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The purpose of the report is to provide members of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update on Neglect in County Durham ahead of a presentation by the Strategic Manager for the One Point and Think Family Service

Executive summary

- 2 Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2018 defines neglect 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. Durham Local Safeguarding Children's Board Tackling Neglect Multi Agency Strategy 2017 sets out its objectives for tackling neglect, promoting early help and delivering effective interventions. Neglect continues to be a key challenge across County Durham. The presentation provides an update on progress in tackling neglect and the impact of neglect on children and young people in County Durham.

Recommendations

- 3 Members of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee are recommended to:
 - a) note the content of the presentation and
 - b) comment accordingly on the presentation

Background

- 4 An introduction to Neglect in County Durham was presented to the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee in January 2018. Members requested an update on progress to date.
- 5 Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2018 defines neglect 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 may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:
 - (a) Provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment);
 - (b) Protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger;
 - (c) Ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care- givers);
 - (d) Ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.
 - (e) It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.
- 6 Durham Local Safeguarding Children's Board Tackling Neglect Multi Agency Strategy 2017 sets out its objectives for tackling neglect and promoting early help and effective interventions across County Durham. The strategic aim of the strategy is to reduce neglect, to reduce the impact of neglect and to ensure early help and support is provided at the earliest opportunity. To deliver the strategic aim work is aligned to four strategic objectives:-
 - (a) understand neglect;
 - (b) early identification;
 - (c) effective provision;
 - (d) family focus.
- 7 The power point presentation will outline the following headings:
 - (a) what neglect is;
 - (b) causes of neglect;
 - (c) impact of neglect on children;
 - (d) current prevalence of neglect;
 - (e) the link between poverty and neglect;
 - (f) learning from Joint Targeted Area Inspections (JTAI) on neglect of older children and
 - (g) progress of actions by the LSCB neglect subgroup.

Background papers

None

Contact: Karen Davison

Tel: 03000 268904

Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

Not applicable

Finance

Not applicable

Consultation

Not applicable

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

Not applicable

Human Rights

Not applicable

Crime and Disorder

Not applicable

Staffing

Not applicable

Accommodation

Not applicable

Risk

Not applicable

Procurement

Not applicable