



# Update on Childhood Neglect in County Durham



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*Altogether better*



- **What neglect is;**
- **Causes of neglect;**
- **Impact of neglect on children;**
- **Current prevalence of neglect;**
- **Link between poverty and neglect;**
- **Neglect of older children –Learning from JTAI**
- **Progress of actions by the LSCB Neglect subgroup.**

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# Definition of Neglect

**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.**

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# NEGLECT



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## The Toxic Quad

- **Alcohol and Substance Misuse**
- **Parental mental ill health**
- **Domestic Abuse**
- **Learning Difficulties**

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### Increased risks

- Parents who were neglected or abused themselves
- Families with four or more children
- Babies under the age of one
- Child with a disability or complex needs
- Those whose mothers experience maternal illness following birth including post-natal depression
- Young, isolated parents
- Those living in poverty
- Where these issues are found in combination, the likelihood of the parent being able to provide adequate care is diminished and the likelihood of neglect is significantly increased.

# Short and long term effects

- **Poorer relationships**
- **Mental health problems and depression**
- **Risky behaviours – running away, putting self at risk, crime, drink and drugs**
- **Impaired brain development before and after birth leading to ADHD, depression, poor attainment and memory**

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# Prevalence

- Durham - **75.5%** of CP cases in 2017
- As of February 2019 - **71.2%** (312 of 438) children subject to CP with category of Neglect
- If we look at assessment factors (for all CIN, CP and LAC) neglect is the third most commonly identified factor after DV and Mental Health.
  
- North East – **63.5%**
- England – **47.8%**

**Neglect remains a key challenge**

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# Poverty, Child Abuse and Neglect

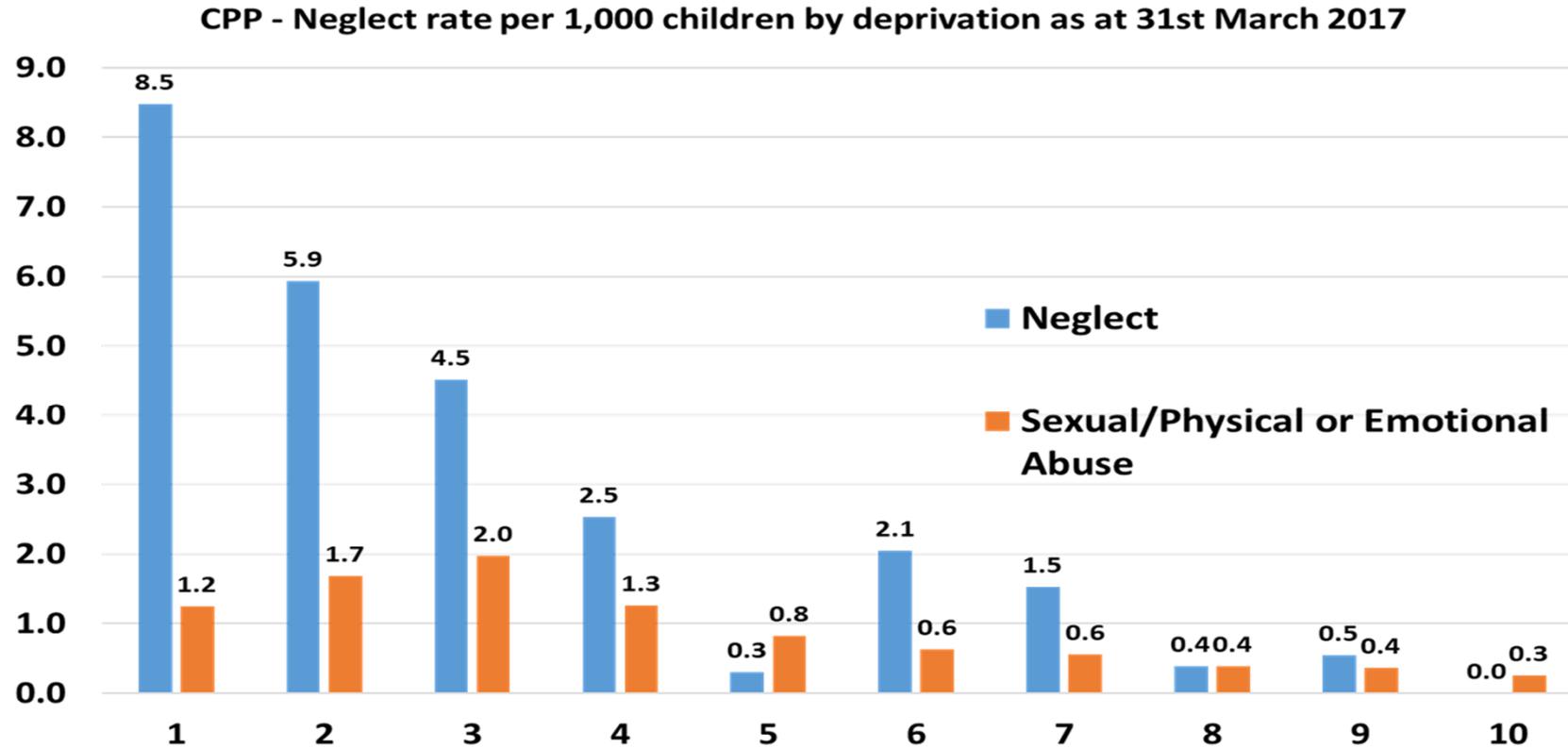
- **Strong association between families' socio-economic situation and the chances their children will experience child abuse and neglect.**
- **This relationship is a social gradient where the risk of child abuse and neglect increases as poverty increases.**
- **'There is overwhelming evidence that poverty and low income are strongly related to child abuse and neglect as well as to the severity of maltreatment.'**
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2016, JRF, The relationship between poverty, child abuse and neglect: an evidence review



# Deprivation and Neglect



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# Learning from national JTAI: Neglect of Older Children

- Neglect of older children sometimes goes unseen;
- Work with parents to address the neglect of older children does not always happen;
- Adult services in most areas are not effective in identifying potential neglect of older children;
- The behaviour of older children must be understood in the context of trauma;
- Tackling neglect of older children requires a coordinated strategic approach across all agencies;

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# Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) and Trauma Informed Approach

- ACE's are described as traumatic and/or stressful events that occur during childhood and adolescence including physical and emotional neglect;
- Children who experience ACE's are more likely to take drugs, mental health issues /unplanned pregnancy, ASB/crime/ imprisoned;



**Billy is a nightmare**

✓

**Billy has lived a nightmare**



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# Our Response to Neglect

- **Prevention and Early Identification**
- **Early education targeted to most needy- Vulnerable Parent Pathway (HDFT)/ Young Parent Programme**
- **Home Environment Assessment Tool (HEAT)**
- **Family Centre support targeted to most needy**
- **Support for poverty and debt**
- **Development of VCS Alliance**

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# What we have done over 2018

- **Held a multi – agency Neglect Conference**
- **Signs of Safety practice model across Children Services - 350 trained to date**
- **Partner briefing over 600 partners attending**
- **Monthly Signs of Safety Group Supervisions held across Children Services;**
- **Local profile of children affected by poverty, deprivation and neglect;**
- **Dental Neglect sub group set up;**
- **ACE and trauma informed practice briefings**

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# What's left to do

- **Dental Neglect conference to be held in may 2019;**
- **Develop a specific strategy on working with older children affected by neglect - trauma informed practice;**
- **Develop a multi –agency reflective supervision model using Signs of Safety model**
- **Continue to work with Child Poverty Working group to address impact of poverty;**
- **Consider the implementation of Graded Care Profile Tool to support our work with parents to address neglect once Signs of Safety is embedded.**

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# Summary

- **Neglect is still a key challenge**
- **It has long lasting, wide ranging negative impacts on children and young people**
- **Understand better the link between poverty and neglect;**
- **Move toward a trauma informed approach;**
- **Ofsted JTAI Inspection focus;**
- **Working together to support families**

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