



Update on Childhood Neglect in County Durham



Karen Davison
Strategic Manager
One Point and Think Family Service
Children and Young People's Service

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

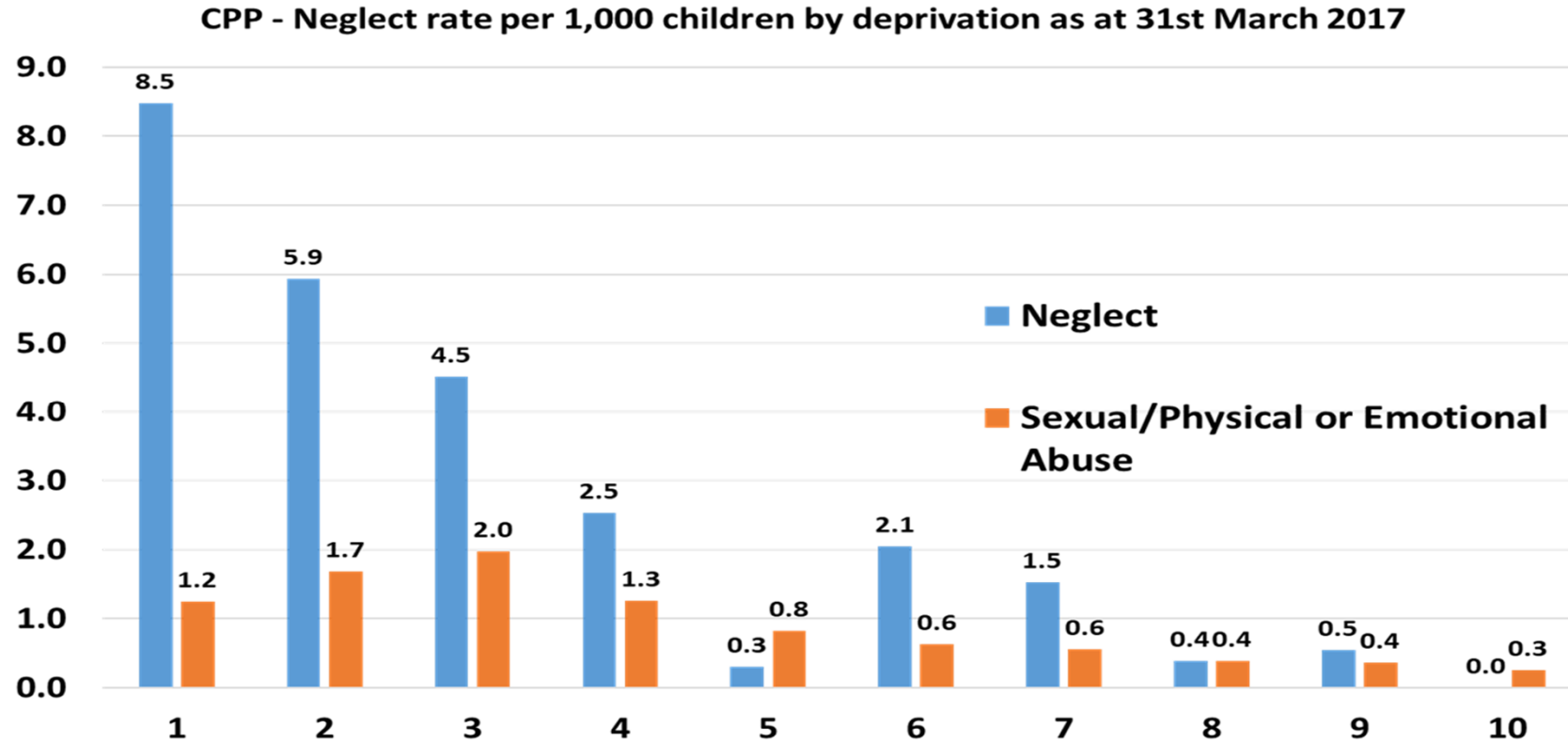
- **Strong association between families' socio-economic situation and the chances their children will experience child abuse and neglect.**
- **This relationship is a social gradient where the risk of child abuse and neglect increases as poverty increases.**
- **'There is overwhelming evidence that poverty 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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