



# Child Neglect in County Durham

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



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- **What neglect is;**
- **Causes of neglect;**
- **Impact of neglect on children;**
- **Current prevalence of neglect in County Durham;**
- **Vision and key objectives to tackle neglect;**
- **Progress and next steps**

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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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## The 'Toxic Quad'

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

### 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.

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# Short and long term effects

- **Physical and mental health issues**
- **Difficulty in establishing relationships/friendships**
- **Risky behaviours – running away, putting self at risk, crime, substance misuse**
- **Poor school attendance/ low achievement/ aspirations**



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# Vision and key objectives

**Vision :** To reduce neglect; to reduce the impact of neglect by providing effective help and support at the earliest opportunity.

## Key objectives

- 1. Understand Neglect:** To understand the prevalence of neglect across County Durham in order to effectively target resources which helps to prevent and mitigate impact of neglect on children and young people;
- 2. Early Identification;** To improve the recognition and assessment of neglect;
- 3. Effective Interventions:** Practitioners across County Durham deliver effective interventions that reduce neglect before the need for statutory interventions.

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# Key Objective 1: Understand Neglect

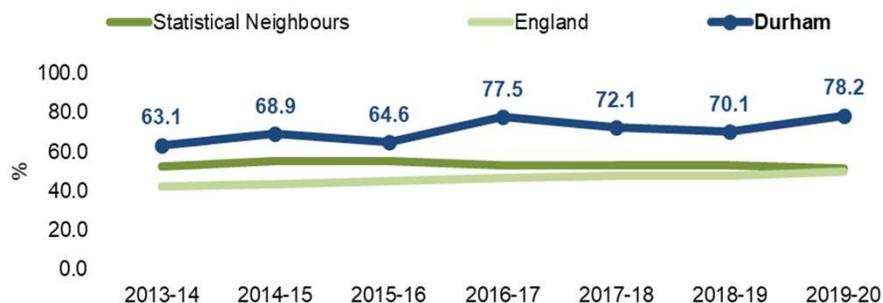
## Prevalence of Neglect in County Durham

Main Reason for Referral	Jul-2020		Aug-2020		Sep-2020		Oct-2020		Nov-2020		Total Number	Total %
	Number	%										
Neglect (Child/Young Person)	102	25%	71	20%	65	19%	55	14%	69	15%	362	18%
Neglect (Parent/Carer)	10	2%	14	4%	17	5%	21	5%	16	4%	78	4%
Neglect (Total)	112	27%	85	24%	82	23%	76	19%	85	19%	440	22%

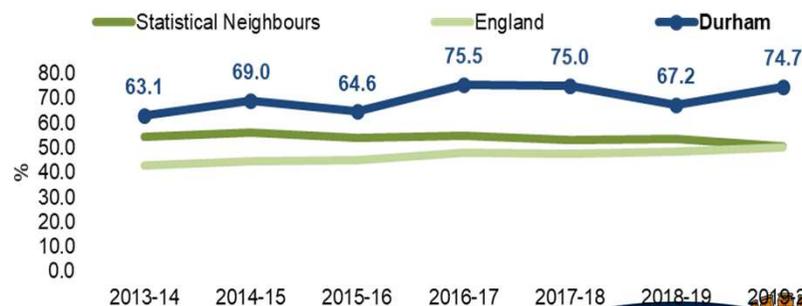
Assessments with factor info: % Neglect



CPP starters category of abuse: % Neglect (initial)



CPP at 31 March category of abuse: % Neglect (latest)

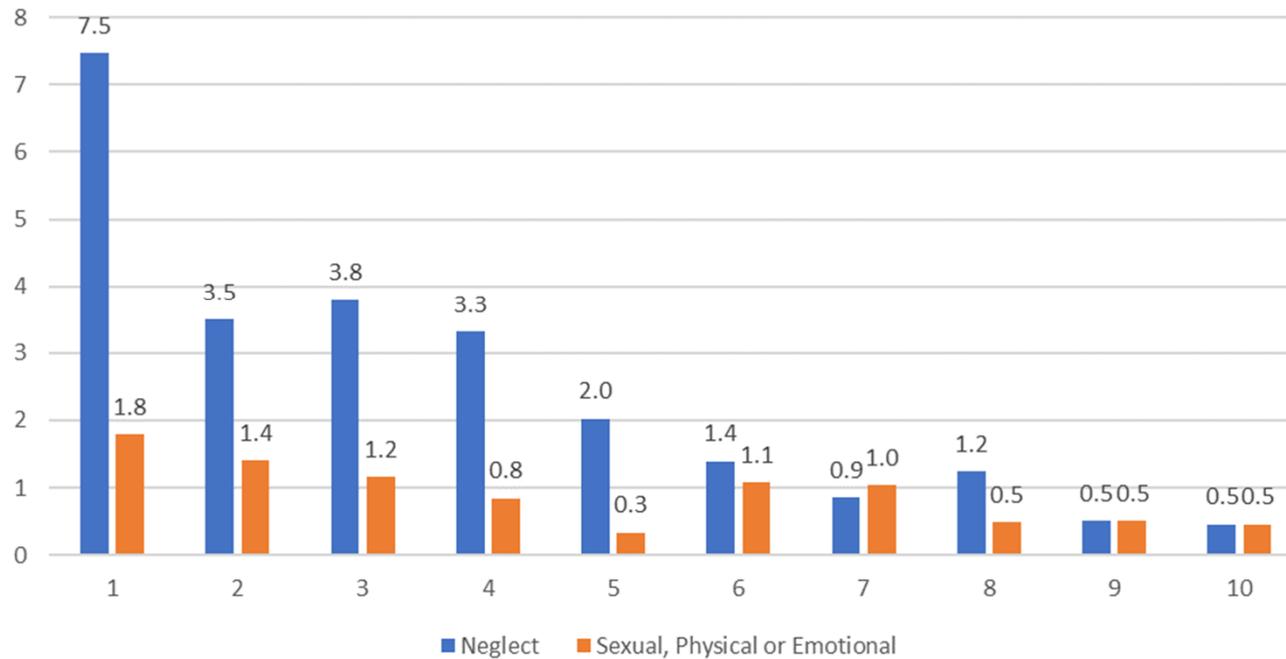


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# Deprivation and Neglect

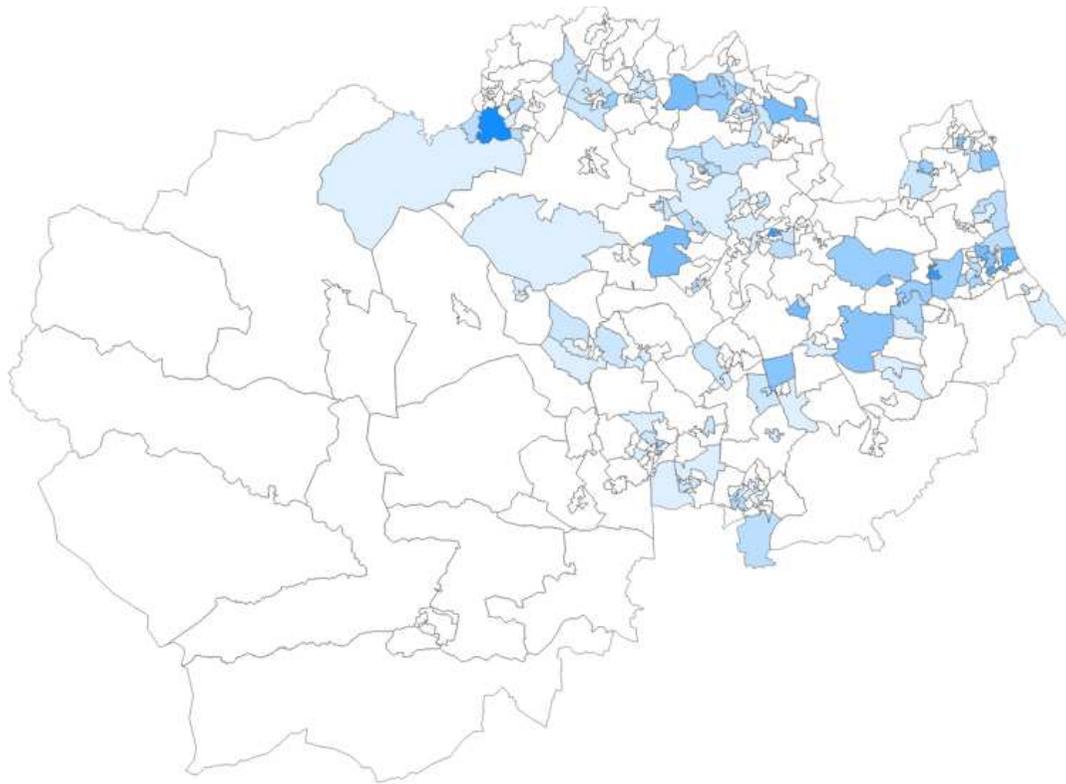
CPP - Neglect rate per 1,000 by Deprivation as at 31 March 2020



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## CPP 'Neglect' County Durham Map



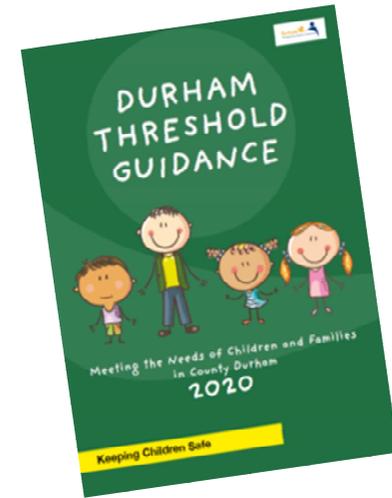
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**This map shows:**

All children on a child protection plan at 31 March 2020, where the latest category of abuse was 'Neglect', by their home postcode

## Key Objective 2: Early Identification

1. The County Durham Threshold of Need has been revised and relaunched;
2. The roll out of a new request for early help process and Early Help Conversations across all 7 County Durham localities;
3. Weekly step up/ down between CSC /OPS /Health 0-25 Service;
4. Revision of the Home Environment Assessment Tool (HEAT) to include dental health;
5. Cutting cost of the school day (100 schools to date)
6. Introduction of Reducing Parental Conflict Programme;
7. 'Was not brought' guidance has been embedded across Dental practices/health services in County Durham

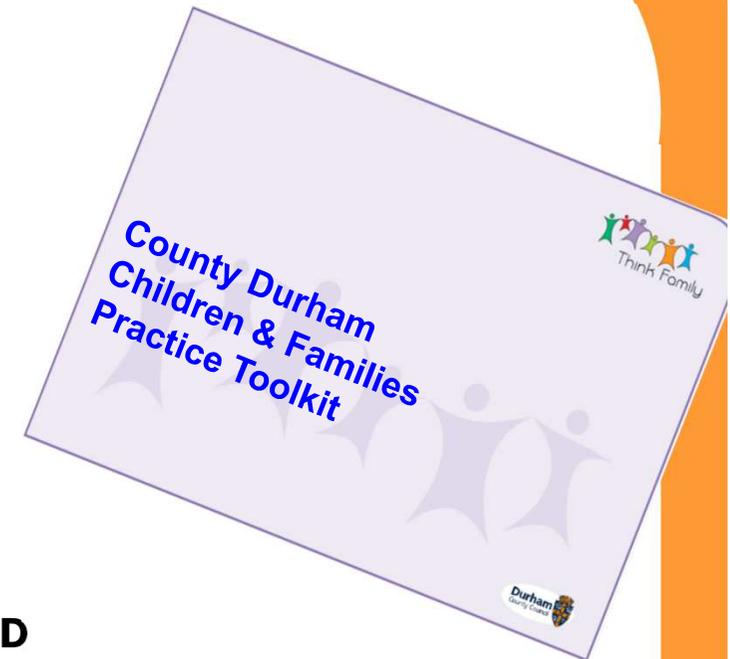


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## Effective Interventions:

- **Development of Neglect Practice Toolkit-Evidence of what works - Children and Families Practice Toolkit**
- **Focus on identifying and working with adolescents-trauma informed approach**
- **Signs of Safety Practice: Family Networks and Safety Plans/voice of child;**
- **DSCP Neglect Learning and Development Programme review;**
- **Thematic auditing re -referrals –cumulative harm**
- **Implementation of Back to School Support Fund, COVID Winter Fund, Holiday Activities with Healthy Food programme (15,000 beneficiaries)**



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# What is next to do

1. Launch Neglect Toolkit within Children and Families Practice Toolkit – multi-agency webinar
2. Graded Care Profile pilot across 2 early help and social care teams
3. Development and implementation of an Integrated Enhanced Parent Support Pathway with 0-25 Family Health Service;
4. Continuation of the implementation of Signs of Safety practice model

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Sub-area	1 Child priority	2 Child first	3 Child & care equal	4 Child second	5 Child not considered
<b>1. Clothing</b>					
a. Insulation 	Well protected and dressed appropriately for weather.	Well protected, adequate for the weather.	Adequate to variable weather protection.	Inadequate weather protection.	Dangerously exposed.
b. Fitting 	Appropriate fitting and design.	Adequate fitting even if handed down.	Clothes a little too large or too small.	Clothes clearly too large or too small.	Grassily improper fitting.
c. Look - age 0-5 	Good condition and clean.	Effort to restore any wear and clean.	Repair lacking, usually not quite clean.	Worn, somewhat dirty and crumpled.	Dirty, badly worn and crumpled, odour.
c. Look - age 5+ 	As above	As above, odour if bed wetter, not otherwise.	Worse than above, unless child does own washing.	Same as above unless child does own washing.	Child unable to help him/herself therefore same as above



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