

# Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee

16 January 2018



## Neglect in County Durham

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### Joint Report of Margaret Whellans, Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services and Lorraine O'Donnell, Director of Transformation and Partnerships

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#### 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 introduction to Neglect in County Durham ahead of a presentation from the Head of Early Help, Assessment and Safeguarding.

#### Background

- 2 At its meeting on 4 July 2017, the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed its work programme for the ensuing Municipal Year and within that was included an overview on Neglect in County Durham.
- 3 Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2015 defines neglect as 'The persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical, emotional 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.
- 4 Durham Local Safeguarding Children's Board Tackling Neglect Multi Agency Strategy 2017 sets out its objectives for tackling neglect and promoting early help an intervention 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:-
  - Understand Neglect
  - Early Identification
  - Effective Provision
  - Family Focus.
- 5 The power point presentation will outline the following headings:
  - What neglect is
  - Causes of neglect

- Impact of neglect on children
- Prevalence of neglect; and
- Our responses

## **Recommendation**

6 Members of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee are recommended to:

- (a) Note the content of the presentation.
- (b) Comment accordingly on the presentation.

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**Appendix 1: Implications**

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**Finance** – None

**Staffing** – None

**Risk** – The authority has a statutory responsibility to ensure that the welfare of children and young people across the county is actively promoted and that they are safeguarded from risk of significant harm.

**Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty** – None

**Accommodation** – None

**Crime and Disorder** – None

**Human Rights** – None

**Consultation** – None

**Procurement** – None

**Disability Issues** – None

**Legal Implications** – None