

Neglect

Neglect has been a key focus of the work of the BSCB in 2017.

Initial Scoping

In January 2017, a Learning Hub workshop took place for professionals from partner agencies including front-line staff. Participants considered research and Ofsted findings on child neglect. A follow-up Learning Hub event in April 2017 looked at parental and child factors of the 68 children who were on child protection plans for neglect as at 31st March 2017.

Quality & Effectiveness Board Recommendations

A report on neglect was presented to the Quality and Effectiveness Board in May 2017 and the following 5 recommendations were agreed:

- Safeguarding Champions events in June to launch thresholds with a focus on neglect
- BSCB to collate data and quality assure the quality of practice on neglect including across early help
- BSCB partners to self-assess against Ofsted joint targeted area inspection (JTAI) criteria on child neglect to set baseline for Bexley
- Develop a local Bexley profile on neglect
- Develop a common understanding of neglect across the partnership and share assessment methods and tools.

Following-Up on the Recommendations

Safeguarding Champions events took place in June and July 2017 with 86 Champions attending. A survey was circulated to Learning Hub participants in September 2017. The survey was informed by the Ofsted Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) criteria on child neglect. The findings were shared with the Learning Hub in October 2017 and will be included in a report to the BSCB Partnership Board in November 2017.

2 masterclasses on neglect were delivered in September 2017 with 61 staff attending from a wide range of agencies from across Bexley. The sessions were led by Ruth Gardner (most recently Advisor Children's Services at the NSPCC) and considered:

- Best practice with vulnerable children: what do we know? what do audits and inspections look for and why?
- Working with child neglect: how it presents, its impact in the short and longer term, and the challenges it presents to best practice?
- The Graded Care Profile approach in Bexley.

Participants used short case studies to consider together how they can draw on this evidence to build both an individual and joint response to child neglect.

An artist spent the day observing the 2 sessions and listening to the discussions and their pictorial summary of the masterclasses can be found here: [morning session](#) and [afternoon session](#).

Useful Resources

A list of useful books, guidance documents and national resources can be found [here](#).