

## Improving Local Practice Multi Agency Audit on Neglect 2014

Neglect is the most common initial category of abuse for which children become subject to a plan 41%. In Bromley 31% of children with a plan are under the category of neglect. In recent years new guidance and training on neglect have been introduced. This audit considers how well we protect children experiencing neglect.

### What we do well

1. More and more persistent work with families and young people.
2. Challenging parents to make changes.
3. Referrals are made swiftly, they are clear and relevant.
4. Professionals challenge each other to improve their work with neglectful families.
5. Effective application of thresholds evident in recent cases
6. Good liaison between hospital and GP evident
7. Evidence of direct work with children and young people.

### What needs to improve?

1. Children and young people remain on a child protection plan long enough to see sustained improvement – (at least 6 months).
2. Neglect cases that are stepped down to Child In Need must be robustly managed, with evidence of continuing improvement before the case is closed.
3. A professional forum is needed to discuss complex cases and to make decisions.
4. There is variable practice on how long a case is worked with before entering into legal proceedings.
5. The need to respond promptly and be more attentive to the impact of neglect on disabled children.
6. The need to be attentive to the impact of cumulative neglect and responding to older young people.



## **Key Actions**

1. More detailed data on neglect (such as length of time on a plan) to become part of the BSCB quarterly dataset.
2. A second review of cases that were escalated and remain difficult and of cases involving disabled children.
3. Agencies to ensure non-attendance policies reflect that in safeguarding cases other professionals need to be informed.

## **Further Actions for BSCB**

8. BSCB to disseminate the findings of this audit through practice guidance, e-bulletins, workshops and newsletter.
9. Agencies to promote the learning from this audit and good practice with practitioners.
10. Implementation of action plan to be monitored by BSCB Quality Assurance Committee.

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