

# Bolton Safeguarding Children Partnership Multiagency Neglect Strategy 2021-2023

‘No opportunity is missed and no opportunity is ignored to respond to child neglect’

## What is Neglect?

The statutory definition of neglect is laid out in Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) :

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:

- provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment)
- protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger
- ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate caregivers)
- ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment

It may also include neglect of or unresponsiveness to a child’s basic emotional needs.

Whilst the statutory definition refers to ‘persistent failure to meet needs’, neglect can be episodic or cumulative. This is important as we need to work to address neglect before it meets the threshold for statutory intervention. Neglect can also be intentional or unintentional.

## Why does it matter?

The experience of neglect during childhood can have significant, long-lasting and pervasive consequences, affecting all aspects of a child’s development and their lives into adulthood. It is the most common type of abuse experienced by children. National reviews have highlighted: poverty, adversity in childhood, the complex and cumulative nature of neglect and the invisibility of some children and young people to the system as significant issues in neglect.



1 in 10 children have experienced neglect



75% of serious case reviews nationally featured neglect in 2014-17 (Brandon et al 2020)



How many children in Bolton?

## We want....

To ensure that we identify and prevent unmet needs from escalating so that all children in Bolton receive the childhood they have a right to. We want all families and the children within them to thrive.

## Child’s voice...

‘You get the mickey taken out of you but you blame yourself, not your parents’

‘Not enough love’

## Our Multiagency Priorities for Action

### Strategic Commitment and Oversight

- Multiagency sign up to strategy
- Effective neglect prevalence data which is used to improve practice
- Quality assurance of practice to review impact/effectiveness

### Development of skills and knowledge of workforce

- Develop, launch and embed the Bolton Neglect Toolkit
- Neglect training offer in place
- BSCP webpage has up to date resources
- Underpinned by trauma informed practice

### Helping earlier

- Improve understanding around information sharing
- Improve early recognition of neglect and ensure a timely response using Early Help
- Clear thresholds in relation to neglect

## Success in Bolton

- Positive feedback from children & families about their lived experience
- Practitioners are reporting increased confidence with addressing neglect
- Audit highlights an improved use of neglect tools and evidence of effective interventions.
- Greater understanding around neglect prevalence using a range of data through robust recording systems

## Strategic Commitment from

Bolton Council

GMP

Health

Education

Community & Voluntary

Communities