Each month we will be focusing on a different safeguarding theme to raise awareness and signpost to resources.



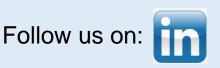
Image by Freepik

For June, our theme is Child Neglect



#neglectaformofseriousharm #recogniseandrespond







Contents

- Context of this resource
- What is Neglect?
- Experiencing Neglect During Childhood
- Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel Annual Report 2022-23
- Swindon Safeguarding Reviews Neglect as a theme
- How many children experience neglect?
- SSP Neglect Strategy 2024-2027 Strategic Aims and Objectives
- Resources for professionals
- Resources for children, parents and carers
- Previous safeguarding themes
- Email signature
- Feedback

afeguarding

Swindon



Image by Freepik



Context

- >This month we want to raise awareness about child neglect.
- ➤ Neglect is a strategic priority for Swindon Safeguarding Partnership. The vision is that:

We will work together with partners to minimise the negative impact of neglect on children and young people in Swindon.

All professionals will feel enabled to confidently identify, assess and respond to neglect.

- Child neglect has been identified as a theme in local safeguarding reviews
- ➤Over the next few slides we have provided you with some links to useful resources and websites. Please note this is not an exhaustive list.





What is Neglect?

Neglect is defined 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:

- 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 care-givers); or
- ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.

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

Horwath (2007) identified six different classifications of neglect: See <u>Neglect Strategy 2024-2027 - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership</u> *Appendix 2* for further information:

- Medical neglect
- Nutritional neglect
- Emotional neglect
- Educational neglect
- Physical neglect
- · Lack of supervision and guidance



Swindon Safeguarding Partnership recognise that neglect does not need to be persistent to negatively impact children and young people.



Experiencing Neglect During Childhood

- ✓ Can have significant, long lasting and pervasive consequences, affecting all aspects of a child's development.
- ✓ These effects include cognitive and other physical development, educational achievement, children and young people's emotional wellbeing, and behavioural difficulties.
- ✓ It can also result in children and young people having difficulties making and keeping relationships, which can affect how they parent their own children and can perpetuate inter-generational cycles of neglect.
- ✓ Consideration needs to be taken into individual development and context, including social and economic factors such as poverty and deprivation, family, environment and community resources.
- ✓ Practitioners should be aware that neglect is an area which can be open to personal and moral judgements.
- ✓ Neglect is the most common type of abuse experienced by children and young people in England.
- ✓ Neglect is a serious form of harm. Both families and professionals can become overwhelmed and demoralised by issues of neglect. Children may experience repeated attempts by professionals to try and improve the situation.
- ✓ Published case reviews highlight that professionals face a big challenge in identifying and taking timely action on neglect.

Source: Neglect: learning from case reviews | NSPCC Learning (December 2022)

Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel Annual Report 2022 - 23

- National and local reviews in the CSPR report shed light on the lives of children and on safeguarding practice.
- Over half of the reviews observed that a child had experienced neglect and that that a high proportion of school age children who died or were seriously harmed were either not in school (11%) or reported to be regularly absent (29%).
- Over half of rapid reviews (53%) noted that the child had experienced neglect prior to the incident. There were similar proportions reported between incidents where the child died (53%, and where the child suffered serious harm (52%).







Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel Annual Report 2022 - 23

- Several practice learning points were identified within the reviews that were more prevalent in cases where neglect was recorded as a factor than in cases where it was not. This included issues around
 - perceived disguised compliance,
 - capturing the voice of the child,
 - poor escalation of concerns and
 - lack of professional curiosity/asking the second question.
- The panel noted that there were insufficiently robust risk assessments. Especially relating to babies under 1.
- Some reviews described how poor or incomplete information could result from tools or toolkits –
 notably ones for safe sleeping and neglect being inadequate or not being utilised fully.
- CSPR Panel are undertaking two thematic analyses in 2024, one of these is on neglect.



Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel: annual report 2022 to 2023 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)





Swindon Safeguarding Reviews – Neglect as a theme

neme

November 2019 - Serious Case Review - Child Q

A serious case review in relation to the severe neglect of a child.

- SCR Q Full report (PDF)
- Learning leaflet SCR Q (PDF)

January 2020 - Local case review - Child Y

A local case review in relation to a 19-year-old female Y. where neglect was a theme.

• Practice learning brief - Local case review - Child Y (PDF)

Images by Freepik

December 2022 - Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review - Bella and Ben

- A Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review has been undertaken around the neglect of two young children.
- Bella and Ben full report
- Bella and Ben executive summary
- Bella and Ben practice learning brief

March 2023 - Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review - Alan

A Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review has been undertaken around adolescent neglect.

- Alan full report
- Alan practice learning brief





Learning Themes for the Safeguarding Partnership

- ➤ Adolescent Neglect: There was a need for processionals to consider the difficulties of working with young people who do not easily engage. Neglect was not considered so this did not elicit an appropriate response from some professionals and the effectiveness of support offered was limited.
- ➤ Mental Capacity Act for under 18's: Application of Gillick competencies and Mental Capacity Act only apply once social work intervention was tried.
- > Escalation: The formal escalation process was underused.
- ➤ Step up and Step down threshold decisions: Threshold decisions were applied too mechanistically thresholds are to guide professional decision making not to replace it. Family needs are complex covering different threshold categories at any one time and they change over time. Decisions made did not reflect the complexities of Alan and his family nor in recognition of the fact that little change was being effected by those

How many children experience neglect?

- It's difficult to measure exactly how many children in the UK experience neglect. However, research with 2,275 young people aged 11-17 about their experiences of neglect suggests around 1 in 10 children in the UK have been neglected.¹
- Adults in a child or young person's life may not recognise the signs of neglect and the child may be too young, too scared or feel ashamed to tell anyone what is happening to them. <u>Statistics on child neglect | NSPCC Learning</u> (March 2024)
- Nationally, neglect remains the most common initial category of abuse recorded for children on protection plans in 2023, accounting for almost half of children, 48%. (https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/characteristics-of-children-in-need)
- In Swindon, during 2022-23, 44% of children were on Child Protection Plans for neglect. Neglect Strategy 2024-2027 - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership



SSP Neglect Strategy 2024 – 2027 – Strategic Aims & Objectives



Neglect Strategy 2024-2027 -Swindon Safeguarding Partnership

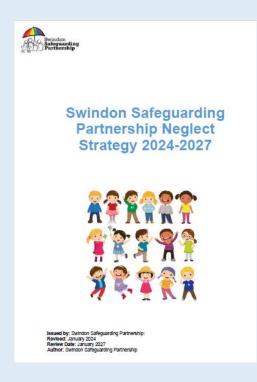
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 states that: Successful outcomes for children depend on strong partnership working between parents/carers and the practitioners working with them. Practitioners should take a child centred approach to meeting the needs of the whole family.
- The aim of Swindon Safeguarding Partnership is to work together with partners and parents/carers to prevent neglect and to minimise the negative impact of neglect on children in Swindon.
- To ensure that all agencies are able to recognise neglect at the earliest opportunity, to offer
 preventative support, and provide an appropriate and timely response. We aim to evaluate our
 practice and its effectiveness so we can assure ourselves of its quality and can continuously
 improve. Achieving these aims will reduce the prevalence and impact of neglect within
 Swindon.
- The strategy is an all age (0-25) strategy for children and does not focus on a particular age group. Neglect can and does affect all age groups of children, although can sometimes go unnoticed in older children, therefore the Partnership will prioritise the **A**, **B**, **C** of neglect:
- A Adolescents Adolescence (twelve to eighteen (25 for Care Leavers/Young People with SEND)
- B Babies Infancy (birth to two years)
- C Children Pre-school (two to four years) Primary (five to eleven)

A child's age should not be a barrier to professionals recognising and understanding the impact of Neglect.





Strategic Objectives



Swindon Safeguarding Partnership have agreed four strategic objectives:

- Recognise: Practitioners and managers in all agencies are able to recognise the various indicators of neglect when working with children, young people and families and ensure there is an appropriate, initial response.
- **Respond:** Each partner agency will provide appropriate responses to children, young people and their families through a multi-agency approach in line with the guiding principles in this strategy.
- Quantify: Identifying the extent and range of neglect in Swindon through gathering information to inform improvements in practice.
- Evaluate: Using national frameworks and guidance we will assure ourselves of the quality of our multi-agency response to neglect across early help, referral, assessment, child in need and child protection, and demonstrate that our work has impacted on outcomes and the quality of life for children, young people and families.

Please refer to the SSP Neglect Strategy 2024-27 for further information Neglect Strategy 2024-2027 - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership



Resources for Professionals



Adolescents

B – Babies

C – Children





Neglect Webpage and Resources





We have a dedicated webpage with a range of resources for practitioners. Click on the link below or use the QR code.

This includes information such as:

- ✓ Identifying and responding to neglect including the <u>SSP neglect</u> <u>framework and practice guidance - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership</u> and <u>Neglect screening tool - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership</u>
- ✓ Cycles of change
- ✓ Courageous conversations with parents/carers
- √ Adolescent neglect
- ✓ Disabled children and neglect
- ✓ A day in the life resources
- ✓ Other relevant useful resources such as:
 - ✓ National and local resources, guidance and recordings
 - ✓ Resources relating to affluent neglect and the relationship between poverty and neglect
 - ✓ Professional response to child neglect in Swindon



COMMUNITY SAFETY

PARTNERSHIP

SSP webpage: Neglect - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership

Resources

Swindon Safeguarding Partnership



Spotlight on Neglect

In March 2024 the safeguarding partnership facilitated a Spotlight on Child Neglect event if you were unable to attend or want to listen again you can catch up by viewing the recording click on this link to access <u>Video archive - Swindon</u>

<u>Safeguarding Partnership</u>

The format of the session included presentations on:

- Learning from reviews
- Swindon Safeguarding Partnership response to child neglect
- Childrens services update
- Experts by experience
- The relationship between poverty and neglect

Workshops included:

- Professional curiosity
- Having difficult conversations
- Education links to neglect





SSP Resources

Some resources are <u>included below but you can access the full list on the 7 minute briefs and</u> practice briefs webpage or use the QR code below.

- Capturing the voice of the child in records May 2021
- <u>CSPR Annual Report Headlines 2020</u> September 2021
- <u>Domestic abuse within families: learning from</u> <u>reviews - July 2023</u>
- Mental capacity act 16 to 17 year olds: learning from reviews - July 2023
- Mental capacity Guidance for clinicians and social care professionals on the assessment of capacity
- Mental capacity toolkit
- Online child exploitation parents guide November 2021

- Parent carer resource child exploitation October 2022
- Perinatal mental health July 2022
- <u>Practitioners guide to strategy discussions</u> October 2021
- Rapid reviews May 2020
- Resource pack Professional Curiosity January 2021
- ROTH Toolkit of resources for professionals March 2022
- Safeguarding adolescents resource pack March 2021
- Safeguarding children oral health October 2021
- <u>Trauma-informed practice</u> August 2023
- Working with fathers October 2021
- Working with resistance October 2023







SSP Children and Young People Policies and Guidance

Some are included below - you can access the full list on the Children and young people policies and guidance - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership webpage or use the QR code below.

- Welcome to the South West Child Protection Procedures (trixonline.co.uk)
- Working together to safeguard children 2023
- Swindon and Wiltshire Children Missing From Home and Care - March 2022
- SSP chronology guidance and template documents -Swindon Safeguarding Partnership - October 2023
- Cross border protocol August 2023

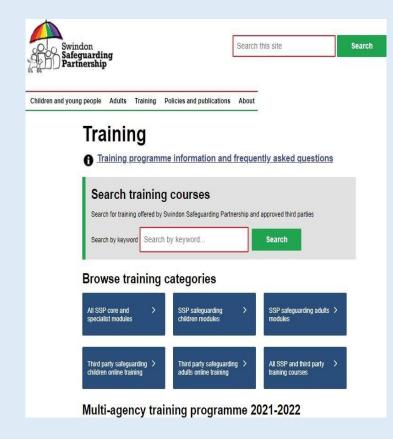
Swindon

- Multi-Agency Process for the Resolution of Professional Disagreements Relating to Safeguarding Protection of Children - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership
- DASH risk checklist (used to inform MARAC referral) -March 2022
- Disabled children: Additional child protection
 procedures for disabled children August 2022

- <u>Disabled children: Intimate care guidance</u> March 2014
- Local child safeguarding practice review guidance
- Multi-agency process for the resolution of professional disagreements relating to safeguarding protection of children - February 2024
- Multi-agency standards for safeguarding children -August 2021
- Neglect Framework & Practice Guidance
- Neglect Strategy 2024-2027
- The Right Help at the Right Time guidance -February 2024
- <u>Safeguarding discharge planning protocol</u> February 2023
- <u>'Think Family' Practice Guidance</u> November 2023.
- Unborn baby protocol (with appendices) January 2022



SSP Training







Visit our webpage to find out more about <u>training available via</u> <u>this link Training Information - Swindon Safeguarding</u>
<u>Partnership or QR code below.</u>

We offer a specialist course: Working with neglect - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership

- Free eLearning: Supporting and Exploring Child Development (awareness level) - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership
- Supporting and exploring child development Module 2 -Swindon Safeguarding Partnership
- Supporting and exploring child development Module 3 -Swindon Safeguarding Partnership

The below course is open to professionals from across the safeguarding partnership and delivered by local professionals:

 Motivational interviewing and communication skills - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership

> COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

SSP Practitioner Forums

- The practitioner's forum is an online event via MS teams which is open to all practitioners and volunteers working with children, young people, families and adults with care and support needs in Swindon. No invitation is necessary. You can attend every meeting or attend only one, it's up to you!
- The meetings will be held on a quarterly basis and will be linked to the safeguarding partnership strategic priorities.
- Child neglect is the theme for our forum on 19th June 2024 from 9.30am to 11.30am
- To find out more or to book a place click on this link: <u>Practitioner</u> forum - <u>Swindon Safeguarding Partnership</u>

Learning from Reviews

Below are some useful resources

- SSP reviews <u>Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and Case</u> <u>Learning leaflets - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership</u>
- Neglect: learning from case reviews | NSPCC Learning
- The voice of the child: learning from case reviews | NSPCC Learning
- Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel: annual report 2022 to 2023
 GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)





NSPCC Speak Out Stay Safe Schools Service

Speak out. Stay safe - Giving children a voice

It's vital to build safe and trusting relationships with children so they can speak out about any problems they are experiencing. This involves teaching children what neglect is and how they can get help.

- The Speak out Stay safe service for schools teaches children how to recognise abuse and neglect and empowers them to speak out if they are worried about anything.
- Speak out Stay safe is a safeguarding programme for children aged 5 to 11years-old. It is available to all primary schools in the UK and Channel Islands.
- It helps children understand:
 - abuse in all its forms and how to recognise the signs of abuse
 - that abuse is never a child's fault and they have the right to be safe
 - where to get help and the sources of help available to them, including our Childline service.

PARTNERSHIP

 The subject of Neglect is introduced in an age-appropriate way which the children can understand. Further information about what is covered in Key Stage 1 & 2 is included on the next slides.

Every child has the right to be safe

How Speak out Stay safe helps children at school learn about their rights, what's OK and not OK, and what to do if they're ever worried or scared.



NSPCC Speak Out Stay Safe Schools Service

- In KS1 Neglect is defined as:
 - Not being looked after properly Some children are not looked after properly perhaps they are left in the house all alone or they don't have enough food or clothes to keep them warm.
- In KS2 the word Neglect is introduced and defined as:
 - **Neglect** When a child is not looked after properly by their parent or carer. When a child does not get enough food, drink or the right kind of clothing. When a child is left on their own for too long. Neglect can happen in any household or family: rich, poor or anything in between.
- In both Key Stages, care is taken to distance Neglect from poverty.
- Where we have volunteer capacity, we are able to supplement the school's delivery of the programme with volunteer led workshops for Y2, Y5 and Y6. The workshop for Y5 and 6 contains a section specifically relating to Neglect. The children are shown an animated film called Guy's Story, through the short film, children are asked to spot examples that tell us about what is happening in Guy's life. They then go on to discuss the many signs of neglect they noticed and to suggest what a child should do if they were ever worried about themselves or their peers to talk to a safe adult and get support.

Find out more



Click on this link to view the recording https://youtu.be/kqplfY140Qk

- In 2022/23, 22,795 children in 97 schools took part in our online Speak out Stay safe programme in Swindon and Wiltshire.
- In 2023-24, Speak out Stay safe was delivered in 89 schools across Swindon, Wiltshire and BANES reaching 19,369 children. And thanks to our wonderful volunteers, 42 schools were able to receive workshops.

To find out more you can:

- Visit the NSPCC Webpage <u>Speak out Stay safe | NSPCC</u>
- Watch the recorded presentation from Sarah Smith (duration 24 minutes)
- Contact Sarah Smith, NSPCC Schools Coordinator BANES, Wiltshire & Swindon via mobile: 07562 204886 or email: Sarah.Smith@NSPCC.org.uk



National Resources

- Neglect is also Child Abuse: Know All About It | NSPCC
- Protecting children from neglect | NSPCC Learning
- Neglect: learning from case reviews | NSPCC Learning
- Neglect and abuse | Action For Children
- Learning resources & events on working with child neglect | Research in Practice
- Neglect matters: A guide for young people about neglect Free Social Work Tools and Resources: SocialWorkersToolbox.com

- Neglect and abuse | Action For Children
- Understanding Adolescent Neglect: Troubled Teens | The Children's Society (childrenssociety.org.uk)

Resources for children, parents and carers





Resources for Young People, Parents/Carers

Childline

- Website Childline | Childline
- Call 0800 1111

Child Accident Prevention Trust

- Webpage: Child Safety Advice | Child Accident Prevention Trust (capt.org.uk)
- Resources: <u>Free educational resources</u> | <u>Child Accident Prevention</u>
 <u>Trust (capt.org.uk)</u>
- Child Safety Week 3rd 9th June 2024 <u>Child Safety Week | Child Accident Prevention Trust (capt.org.uk)</u>





NSPCC Listen up Speak up



- It takes a village to raise a child. And it takes a community to keep children safe.
- The NSPCC are encouraging every adult in the UK to take a 10-minute digital training* and learn how to listen up and speak up for children.
- Listen up, Speak up will show you:
 - some signs a child might be at risk, and steps you can take to help
 - how to approach difficult conversations to help keep children safe
 - who you can contact if you're ever concerned about a child or their family.
- Visit the webpage to find out more and to sign up for the training <u>Listen up</u>, <u>Speak up | NSPCC</u>





Resources for Parents/Carers

Swindon

- **Growbaby Swindon**: Is a baby-essentials bank serving local families with children aged 0-5 completely free of charge. All families welcome currently run 2 sessions each week on a Wednesday at Pattern Church 09.30-11 and 12-13.30
- Crosslight advice: Crosslight debt advice in Swindon is led by a team of experienced and qualified volunteers.

 Crosslight has a vision to restore dignity and hope to those in need by reducing debt poverty and improving financial capability through the provision of free advice, money education and support. 020 7052 0318 or head to their website.
- **Harbour project:** is a charity organisation who provide a safe space for refugees and asylum seekers in Swindon open Mon-Fri 10am-2pm at the Broadgreen centre.
- Swindon Community Fridge Gorse Hill: Sharing food with the community with the aim of reducing food waste and poverty open 11-2pm Mon, Tues and Thurs Gorse Hill Baptist Church
- NHS Healthy Start: If you are at least 10 weeks pregnant or have a child under 4 you could get help towards the cost of healthy food and milk. Plus free healthy start vitamins for you and your baby. Find out if you're eligible www.healthystart.nhs.uk
- Safe Families <u>www.safefamilies.uk</u> is a charity that works with local authorities. Safe Families offer hope belonging and support to children, families and care leavers.
- **KFR refurnishing furniture reviving communities**. KFR refurbish furniture and white goods so that quality items are available to households with limited income. www.kfr.org.uk also on Facebook
- Swindon Food Collective: Local food bank who aim to help people in Swindon or the surrounding area who are suffering from financial hardship and finding it difficult to provide food for themselves. www.swindonfoodcollective.org



Resources for Parents/Carers

Financial support for people on prepayment meters: Prepayment Vouchers for those struggling to top up gas and electricity meters. If you support clients who are on prepayment meters for their gas or electricity, and who are finding it hard to afford to top up those meters, there could be help available.

The Centre for Sustainable Energy has funding to be able to offer vouchers for topping up energy meters. By registering with the Fuel Voucher Fund you could refer your clients directly for up to £294 in vouchers if they qualify. This would be a one off award and limited to one per household. The client would need to fulfil at least one of the following criteria:

- ✓ Be receiving a means tested benefit
- √ Have a health condition made worse by the cold
- ✓ Be in debt
- ✓ Have a deficit budget (be at risk of debt, not paying to heat, cutting back on food etc.).

Prospective referrers need to email <u>fuelvoucherfund@cse.org.uk</u> to register as an individual in order to refer people wanting the vouchers. You will then be sent further information about the scheme and any restrictions covering the scheme.

Please note: this is not a scheme to promote to the public or to ask residents to contact the email address given. <u>It is only for organisations helping people to access.</u>

Damp and Mould in SBC property's: If you have any damp and mould concerned in council owned property, please could you contact: DampAndMould DampAndMould@swindon.gov.uk directly to prevent any delays in your referrance.



In case you missed some of our earlier themes...

You can still access the resources for 2024

- January: <u>SSP Safeguarding theme keep warm stay safe January 2024 Swindon Safeguarding Partnership</u>
- February: <u>Safeguarding theme February 2024 Staying safe online Swindon Safeguarding Partnership</u>
- March: <u>Safeguarding theme March 2024 Safeguarding unborn babies</u> and under 2s - <u>Swindon Safeguarding Partnership</u>
- April: <u>Safeguarding theme April 2024 All age exploitation Swindon Safeguarding Partnership</u>
- May: <u>Safeguarding theme May 2024 Mental health awareness Swindon Safeguarding Partnership</u>



Email signature

If appropriate please add the text below to your email signature

Swindon Safeguarding Partnership's Theme for June 2024 is

Neglect ABC

Adolescents

B – Babies

C – Children

Neglect Strategy 2024-2027 -Swindon Safeguarding Partnership

Child Neglect

Find out more by visiting the SSP Events webpage

Events - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership

or follow us on



@SwindonSafegua1

#neglectaformofseriousharm #recogniseandrespond







And finally...

Please let us know if the information and resources have been helpful to you.

You can give us your feedback by clicking on the link below or scanning the QR code.

It will take you two minutes!

Link to feedback form:

https://forms.office.com/e/tCgzJ0XykL



