

Southampton



# **Neglect:**

# **A Shared Responsibility**

**1 December 2016**

**Southampton**

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#LSBNeglect

# Welcome from the Chair

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Keith Makin

Independent Chair Local Safeguarding Children Board  
(LSCB)

# Aims for Today

- Raise awareness of Neglect issues
- Help you to recognise signs and symptoms and how to respond
- Learn from case reviews locally and nationally
- Promoting a 'think family' approach
- Housekeeping (locations of toilets, fire exits etc)

You will hear children's experiences as well as from our key note speaker and a variety of really engaging workshops.

# It's real life...

- Some of the things we discuss today will affect us
- It is likely that some people in the room will have personal experience of the issues raised
- Content of the day is impactful and may be hard to hear
- If you need to speak to someone about yourself or someone you know or work with – help is available
  - Come to our stall in the break
  - Contacts in your packs.

# What is Neglect?

*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.

Working Together, 2015.

# Why are we focussing on Neglect?

- Neglect is of growing concern nationally as well as locally
- 40% of cases where children were subject to a child protection plan neglect was the sole category of abuse (Southampton 2016)
- 56% of children subject to a child protection plan had neglect as a category of abuse (Southampton 2016)
- There is a growing body of evidence regarding the long term impact of neglect on children, families and communities
- Since 2011, the LSCB has found neglect to be a key theme within the majority of case reviews that it has completed – including where children have died or been seriously injured

***Southampton LSCB has made Neglect a priority for the next 2 years.***

# What have we learned?

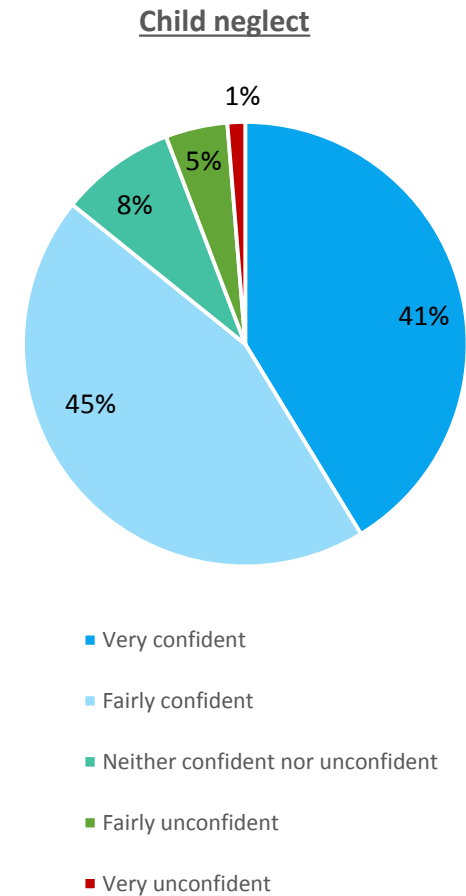
In Southampton case reviews:

- Neglect was not always identified
- Neglect was overlooked or not considered as high in risk
  - especially when other factors co-existed for the parents, such as domestic violence, substance misuse, learning disability or mental ill-health
- When it was identified, responses were not always robust – agencies did not always work together appropriately to protect the children involved.

# What have we learned?

In a survey of professionals in Southampton by the LSCB:

- 45% of respondents stated that they are 'fairly confident' in recognising and responding to child neglect, and a further 41% stated that they are 'very confident'
- Demonstrates a training need in order to bring more people up to a 'very confident' level.





# What have we learned?

Also in the Survey:

There were a number of success stories around neglect showing examples of children's and adult's lives greatly improving and standards of living and care changing for the better.

These are displayed today.

This highlights the excellent work that is already underway in the City and the dedication that professionals have to changing poor outcomes.

# What are we doing as a City?

- An LSCB multi-agency task and finish group has been set up to review current processes and to develop better ways of working together.
- Including:
  - a front line survey on the issue of neglect
  - Multiagency audit of cases
  - Develop a systematic approach to hearing the voices of children and young people
  - Develop a public engagement programme to heighten knowledge and awareness
  - Identify and deliver a programme of training for professionals

# Group exercise

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- Jacqui Westbury – Principal Social Worker, Southampton City Council