



Knowsley Multi Agency Neglect Strategy 2024-27

Purpose and Aim

To reduce the prevalence and impact of child neglect across Knowsley through the provision of a joined up multi-agency response that improves outcomes for children.

The overall aim of this strategy is to improve the recognition of neglect in families; to improve Agencies' responses to these families; and to ultimately improve positive outcomes for children, and families.

What is Neglect?

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 defines neglect 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 caregivers); or
- Ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.

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

Priorities

Priority 1: Strong and effective leadership across all agencies reduce and respond to neglect.

Priority 2: Improve capability of multiagency workforce, to recognise, understand and identify the impact of neglect.

Priority 3: Evaluate our practice and continually improve its effectiveness so we can improve performance and reduce the neglect of children and young people.

Challenging Child Neglect in Knowsley

- Child focused practice
- Strength based approach
- Culture of challenge and escalation
- Effective support early – Right help, right time
- Strong multiagency working
- Listen to children and families

How will we know we have made a difference?

- Measure the impact of training
- Undertake audit of Multi agency practice
- Feedback from children and their families
- Monitor a multi-agency dataset
- Identify and share good practice.
- Scrutiny from the KSCP partnership

Outcomes for children and young people in Knowsley

1. Reduction in levels of neglect
2. Improved attendance at school
3. Reduction in re-referrals to Children's Social Care concerning neglect
4. Reduction in the number of children becoming looked after due to neglect.
5. Increase in neglect being addressed at the earliest opportunity through partnership Early Help.
6. Increased awareness of professionals in respect of the impact of neglect
7. The voice of child and their lived experience is listened to.