

## Definition

Neglect is defined in Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) 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”*

## Background

In the latest triennial review of serious case reviews (2019), neglect was found to be a factor in the lives of the children who died or were seriously harmed; neglect featured in 208 of 278 cases (75%) and was the primary factor in 19% of the cases reviewed. In 2020, an SSCP briefing report into the themes emerging from 13 case reviews in Surrey between 2016 and 2020, highlighted that recognising and providing a timely response to cases of neglect was imperative to reduce significant harm. The report highlights how professionals can find it challenging to evidence significant and cumulative harm as a result of neglect. It can be accessed here; [Annex 2 - Thematic Review of Serious Cases.pdf \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](#)

Neglect is the most common category of abuse for children subject to child protection (CP) plans. In Surrey the total number of children on CP plans was 1,136 where **62% have identified neglect as a factor** (31st March 2019).

Surrey Police has recorded 117 cases of Cruelty or Neglect of children from April 2019 to April 2020.

In Surrey, parental mental health issues and domestic abuse are linked to neglect.

Neglect is more likely to be identified in the 0-4 followed by the 10-14 age groups.

## Voice of the Child

‘Child neglect is showing a lack of warmth towards a person, not worrying or caring about them, their education or safety.’

‘Child neglect involves failing to meet a child’s basic needs, including leaving them hungry, dirty, without sufficient shelter or clothing or meeting their medical needs.’

‘Child neglect causes the child to feel less than a valued human and is abuse.’



## NEGLECT STRATEGY

*For impactful intervention and positive change.*

MARCH 2021 – 2023

## Further reading and resources

SSCP procedures link [Surrey Safeguarding Children Partnership Procedures Manual](#). | [Surrey Safeguarding Children Partnership](#)

SSCP website (includes neglect screening tool and GCP2) [Categories Abuse and Neglect; Surrey Safeguarding Children Partnership \(surreyscp.org.uk\)](#)

Surrey C-SPA contact details and request for support form [Contact Children's Services - Surrey County Council \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](#)

## Strategy aims

An *increase* in the number of appropriate referrals due to better identification of neglect and its impact on families.

A *reduction* in the number of cases held at level 4 as a result of neglectful parenting and a *reduction* in re-referrals of children returning to Child Protection Plans for Neglect

The lived experience and voices of CYP experiencing Neglect will be captured and listened to within referrals, assessments and surveys to inform interventions for Neglect.

An increased understanding, and shared narrative of Neglect across the partnership achieved by the promotion and use of evidence-based models including Family Safeguarding, Effective Family Resilience and NSPCC Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2).

Each agency provides a timely, robust response to Neglect with no drift or delay.

Implementation, monitoring and evaluation of GCP2 /GCP2A and the Neglect screening tool to support robust objective assessments of Neglect and the journey of the child and family.

To improve awareness and understanding of Neglect within our Surrey communities

## Summary

- Take neglect seriously
- Understand roles and thresholds
- Use guidance, tools and resources available
- Clearly articulate and share your concerns
- Be prepared to challenge, escalate if necessary