

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on Wednesday, 15 January 2020

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Neglect Strategy

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

Victoria Gent, Head of Service Children's Social Care East

Victoria.gent@lancashire.gov.uk

Executive Summary

This report provides an update to the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee on the implementation of the Neglect Strategy and the partnership working.

Recommendation

The Children's Services Scrutiny Committee is requested to:

- i. Review and comment on the progress so far.
- ii. Note that further work is to be undertaken across all partners to ensure the Neglect Strategy is well embedded and making a difference.

Background and Advice

In April 2019, a refreshed Multi Agency Neglect Strategy was launched by Lancashire Safeguarding Children's Board (as attached at Appendix 'A'). Extensive consultation was undertaken in preparation for this review with key partner agencies and children and young people. This strategy sets out what neglect is and the current picture in Lancashire. Four key priorities evolved through a partnership working group. These are:

- Priority 1: Strategic Commitment across all partner agencies
- Priority 2: Improve awareness, understanding and recognition
- Priority 3: Prevent neglect through early help
- Priority 4: Improve effectiveness of interventions and reduce impact of neglect

What have we achieved so far?

Priority 1

- Neglect Strategy launched with a range of posters, materials and communication including a video.
- Ensured neglect is now a key priority of the Children's Safeguarding Arrangement Partnership (CSAP).

- Developed Pan Lancashire links to the Strategy with Blackpool adopting the same strategy.

Priority 2

- An online multi agency toolkit was developed by a range of practitioners and is available on the [website](#).
- Commissioned both multi agency and children's services targeted training. To date, we are part way through an extensive children's services training plan which commenced in September 2019. This one day training course for all practitioners brings together current research, the key priorities for neglect and ensures a strength based approach in line with the move for Lancashire children's service's towards a Family Safeguarding model. The multi-agency training benefits from the same highly experienced trainer to ensure consistency. Feedback and evaluation to date has been positive. The current trainer will dip sample trainees in 6-12 months' time for impact.

Priority 3

- Neglect will be a key priority in the revised early help strategy.
- The early help strategy is currently being developed and will soon be ready to launch. Early help "hubs "will bring together practitioners who will be better placed to identify neglect and act swiftly to provide the right support, at the right level.
- Developed a Safeguarding Networks Pilot to support schools in a range of safeguarding and neglect issues

Priority 4

- We have improved the quality of our SMART plans. Plans are more achievable and measurable and this is evidenced in our Audits.
- We are improving the quality of our supervision. This is evidenced in monthly audits of our staff supervision. We are building on the quality through additional training for managers through our Leadership Academy and Research in Practice.
- Tackled drift and delay; improving our timeliness of plans open to children's services and tracking pre proceedings work through our permanence tracker.
- Lancashire's Family Safeguarding model will support improved effectiveness of interventions and help support the complex needs of adults, which are often the root cause of neglect to children.

What do we need to do?

We need to further embed the Neglect Strategy by;

- Developing a working group with key partner agencies to ensure effective and meaningful delivery of the strategy and alignment to the Family Safeguarding Model-planned from January.
- Plan multi agency district workshops to ensure a shared understanding of neglect and promote use of the toolkit.
- Monitor and measure the impact of the neglect strategy through the working group, developing a range of measures including multi agency auditing.

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

N/A

Risk management

Strategic commitment is required from all agencies to ensure the neglect strategy is well embedded across all districts of Lancashire, and the focus on neglect is maintained within the revised early strategy and the roll out of the Family Safeguarding model.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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NA

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

NA