

Safeguarding Week

Conception to 5 years



We help you develop yourself

www.westsussex.gov.uk

Housekeeping

- Safeguarding is a sensitive topic
- Respect others – challenge the issue not the person
- Confidentiality
- Listen to each other
- Each person is responsible for their own actions and statements
- Mobile phones off or on silent
- Get involved!
- Fire escape / toilets

Learning Outcomes

- Reflect on your knowledge of Neglect and importance of learning from SCR's
- Reflect on how you will apply the West Sussex Threshold Guidance and Continuum of Needs document in practice and your responsibilities
- Describe key messages around the impact that positive relationships have on the developing foetus and in early years
- Describe the impact of Domestic Abuse
- Reflect on safeguarding issues relating to early years with children with additional needs / disabilities

1001 critical days



Attachment and Trauma in Early Childhood

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AB51V3fAAvs>

SCR's - National Learning under 5 years

- 1. Neglect** is a factor in 60% of case reviews. All professionals should be confident in:
 1. Recognising physical and emotional neglect
 2. Understanding the impact of cumulative and long term effects of neglect
 3. Taking timely action to safeguard children

- 2. Professionals sometimes struggle to keep the focus on the child where **domestic abuse** is a factor**
 1. Professionals need to engage with men living in the family home
 2. And keep in mind the impact on children of living with domestic abuse

Learning 3 SCR: Daniel Pelka 4 years, Keanu Williams toddler, Hamzah Khan 4 years

- In all three cases the mothers were actively deceitful, often antagonistic and convincing liars when explaining away injuries or keeping professionals away from their door. Both serious case reviews identified that professionals had succumbed to the 'rule of optimism'. 'Disguised Compliance'.
- Another key issue running through both serious case reviews (SCRs) were problems associated with multi-agency working. In both cases professionals often had concerns running in parallel to each other but never seemed able to join them up together which, according to the hindsight of a SCR, would have flagged up serious issues.

It is important to have regard to the specific needs of children that are often listed under the term of 'failure to meet basic needs'

- **Medical neglect:** Failing to provide appropriate health care, including dental care and refusal of care or ignoring medical recommendations.
- **Nutritional neglect:** Failing to provide adequate diet and nutrition.
- **Emotional neglect:** Failing to meet a child's need for nurture and stimulation through, e.g. ignoring, humiliating, intimidating or isolating children.
- **Physical neglect:** Failing to provide for a child's basic needs such as food, clothing, or shelter.
- **Lack of supervision and guidance:** Failing to adequately supervise a child, or provide for their safety.
- **Educational neglect:** Failing to ensure that a child receives an education

The Four Types of Neglect

Emotional Neglect

- This ranges from the child being ignored to being completely rejected
- There is persistent ill treatment of the child
- The child feels worthless and inadequate
- Families may keep the child silent, scapegoat the child or, withhold affection or emotion and may not do things for the child

Depressed/Passive Neglect

- Parents or carers are unmotivated or do not understand the child's needs
- Parents or carers do not believe that anything can change and feel passive and helpless
- Frequently there is a failure to meet the child's emotional and physical needs
- This may sometimes be due to parental mental health issues

Disorganised Neglect

- This ranges from inconsistent parenting to chaotic parenting
- Families are frequently coming into contact with services and are often characterised as "problem families" or "crisis ridden" families
- There is often little hostility towards professionals and a willingness to engage
- Frequent change in family life
- Parents' feelings dominate behaviour
- Children display demanding or attention seeking behaviour

Severe Deprivation Neglect

- This can range from a child being left to cry to a child being left to die
- The children and their home can be dirty and smelly
- Children can be completely deprived of love, stimulation, emotional warmth, or completely ignored
- Children can be left unattended or let out inappropriately by themselves
- In the most extreme cases prognosis is usually poor.

Neglect – NIMT tool

- Determining the threshold at which poor care ends and neglect starts is perhaps one of the most perplexing dilemmas that practitioners face
- Practice thresholds are far from clear, in that they rely on the assessment skills, and judgements of workers, in the context of individual and agency values
- Neglect is one of the most enduring and damaging experiences for a child or young person to endure
- Importance of 'professional curiosity'

Group Discussion - Evidencing Concerns

- **What do you observe when a child is impacted by difficulties such as neglect/abuse?**
- **Why is it important to record severity and frequency relating to worries?**
- **Where do you record what you observe?**
- **What can you do to support the baby/child/parent/family?**

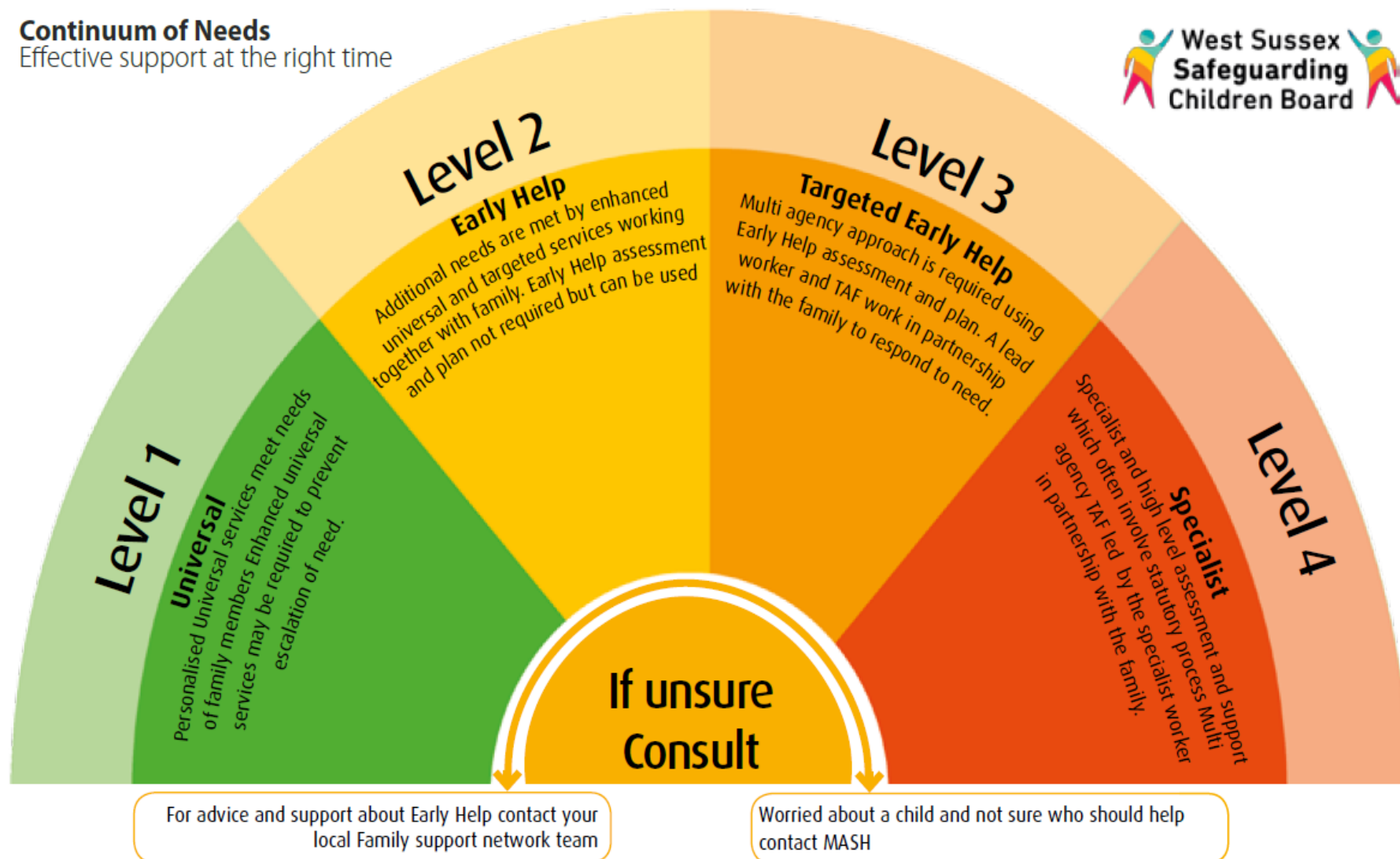
www.westsussex.gov.uk/fsd

Impact of Neglect in childhood

- Neglect results in impaired emotional skills.
- Reduced empathy and recognition of emotions in others including anger.
- Reduction in cognitive skills with associated developmental delay.
- Memory performance impaired.
- Increased aggression and conduct problems.
- Increased likelihood of being bullied or becoming a bully.
- Reduced interaction with caregivers.
- Susceptibility to further abuse including exploitation.

Continuum of Needs

Effective support at the right time



Children, young people and their families can require support from services that respond to different levels of need across the continuum from Universal to Specialist support. The challenges of family life can mean that some children and families will move between different levels of support. Local Safeguarding Children Board are committed to ensuring that this journey is supported by effective partnership working informed by good assessments and managed with care providing simple communication and clear accountability.

Activity – Chronologies and MASH referrals

- **Multi-agency chronologies - in groups of 8-10 complete chronology activity.**
- **Explore what a good referral to MASH would look like.**
- **How the 'Children's Learning and Wellbeing Audit' highlights worries in Early Years Settings (previously Vulnerable Learners Audit) and how this is linked to the West Sussex Threshold Guidance to understand level of concern?**

Domestic Abuse

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=krmbmSTK3ZU>

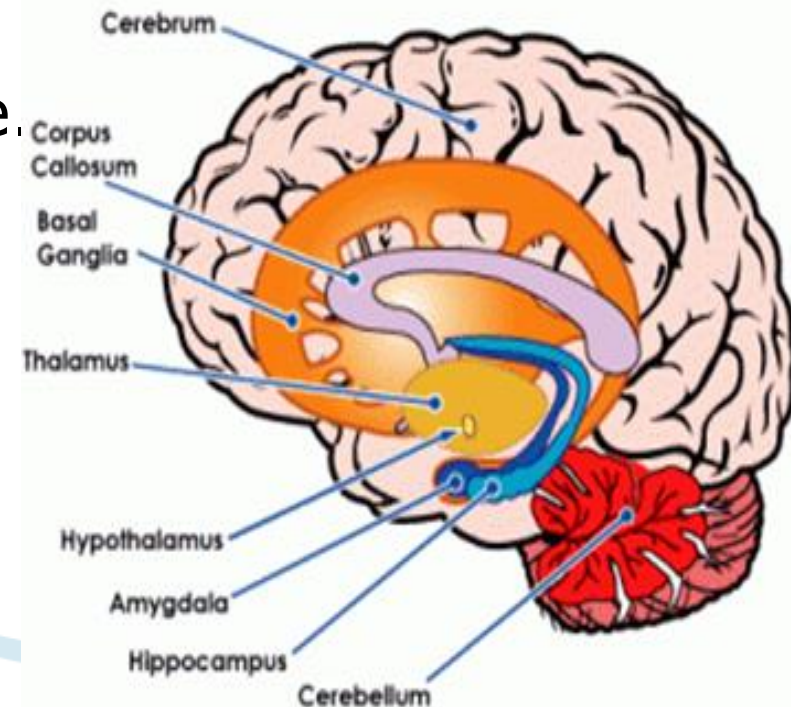
DA - Increasing risk

- A third of DV cases are initiated during pregnancy.
- The most dangerous time with greatest risk of homicide is at the point of separation from the violent partner.
- Child contact issues increase the risk of on-going control and harassment of the victim.
- Particularly vulnerable are ethnic minority groups, LGBT and disabled victims. Male victims may find gender bias prevents them accessing support.
- 63% of SCRs have DV as a risk factor.

(DoH 2017)

DA- Impact on children

- Research shows that witnessing domestic violence elicits trauma symptoms in children.
- With intrusive re-experiencing of events- dreams and flashbacks.
- Hyperarousal.
- Exaggerated startle response.
- Emotional withdrawal.
- Conduct problems.
- Mental health difficulties.



Supporting Parents with SEND

- Children with SEND are one of the most vulnerable groups at risk of neglect
- Specific information available on the West Sussex Safeguarding Children's Board 'Neglect of Disabled Children'

[Neglect of Disabled Children | West Sussex Safeguarding Children Board](#)

SEN Key Documents

- Safeguarding Disabled Children Practice Guidance
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015)
- Listening as a way of life – listening to young disabled children (NCB)
- Ofsted: Protecting disabled children: thematic inspection

Summary

- Neglect can be difficult to evidence and refer to MASH: use the NIMT tool and threshold guidance
- Parental conflict and Domestic Abuse has significant impact on children
- Parental emotional wellbeing and their relationship with child is crucial to the child's development

Useful Links to resources

[Neglect Pathway in West Sussex](#)

[Five to Thrive in West Sussex](#)

[Mental Health](#)

[Worthing Services](#)

[LSCB Website](#)

[Domestic Abuse](#)

[Family Booklet](#)

[Resilience](#)

SEND Links

- <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/special-educational-needs-and-disability-send/send-hub-networks/>
- [Compass Card 0-17](#)

Public Health Contacts

- Weight Management, Sexual Health, Smoking Cessation, Alcohol

IPEH Hub Contacts

Process Team Managers:

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Alison Goodrham	Alison Goodrham	Paul Coventry
Crawley	Horsham	Mid Sussex
Katie Bennett	Corina Gibson	Julia Kirwan

Early Years Consultants (EYCs)

	South	North
Inclusion	Anna Balcanquall	Diane Ayres
Learning and Development	Carrie O'Rourke	Sue Woods

- Statutory Guidance and other government documents can be found at:
- [Foundation Years | From pregnancy to children aged 5](#)
- The West Sussex website has a range of information to support early years providers to reflect on and develop their provision. Information for childcare providers can be found at <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/business-and-consumers/information-for-childcare-providers/>
- The following pages contain information which would be helpful to IPEH staff to access when working with children under 5.
- [Early Years Foundation Stage \(EYFS\) - West Sussex County Council](#)