NEGLEGIA BUSE, THERE'S BUSE, THERE'S BUSE NO EXCUSE A CT NOW

A guide for parents, carers and professionals



What children and young people say about child neglect (taken from Action for Children Report:

"Child Neglect: the scandal that never breaks "March 2014)

'If you see an unhappy kid you need to ask them what is wrong....'

'Some kids don't realise they are neglected until they get to primary school - because it has just been their life, so teachers need to ask.'

'Some children don't know they are being neglected and not ever getting a hug is being neglected. If you've never had one, you just don't know.'

'I think it's the adults who need to approach children if they think something's not right, it's not up to the children to approach them. It can be a big burden for a child to ask for help.'



Every child in Sheffield needs;

To have their physical needs met by;

- Being clean
- Being warm
- Going to medical appointments
- · Going to the dentist and having their teeth cared for
- Having regular, well-balanced meals
- Having clean, appropriate clothing
- Having a clean, comfortable home and bedroom

To have their safety needs met by;

- Being protected from unsafe adults
- Being properly supervised
- Being properly supervised online and protected from harm from social media
- Being provided with clear and consistent boundaries
- Not being exposed to violence and drug misuse in their home and in their community
- Being helped to understand potential dangers in their community

To have their emotional needs met by;

- Someone who keeps them safe
- Someone who gives them hugs
- A stable home environment
- Someone who gives them praise and encouragement
- · Being valued and have a sense of belonging
- By understanding who they are and where they come from
- Being provided with positive role models

To have their development needs met by;

- Regularly attending nursery and school
- Having opportunities to play and socialise with children of their own age
- Having access to toys and books
- Having support with their learning at home
- Having access to specialised support when its needed
- Being provided with opportunities to be successful and achieve

What does neglect look like for a child;

If their physical needs are not met they may;

- Look untidy, dirty and may smell
- Have clothes that are not suitable for the weather or for their age
- Be hungry or be overfed and not provided with regular well balanced meals
- Have rotten teeth or do not regularly clean their teeth
- Not be taken to the GP when poorly
- · Have missed medical or health appointments
- Not have received the right follow up treatment for any health
 problems
- Have no regular bedtime and often look tired
- Have a home and bedroom which lacks heating, basic furniture, bedding and be dirty

If their safety needs are not met they may;

- Have frequent accidental injuries
- Be left unsupervised or alone in the home
- · Be left unsupervised in the community
- Be left unsupervised online (e.g. on their phone, laptop) inappropriate to their age and level of understanding
- Have no or inconsistent boundaries



- Be exposed to inappropriate adults or drugs, pornography, or age inappropriate films or games
- Be exposed to risks in the community, e.g. sexual exploitation, gangs

If their emotional needs are not met they may;

- Be overly-affectionate towards strangers or people they haven't known for very long
- Lack confidence or become wary or anxious
- Appear not to have a close relationship with their carer
- · Lack social skills or have few, if any, friends
- Struggle to control strong emotions or have extreme outbursts
- Use language, act in a way or know about things that you wouldn't expect them to know for their age
- Often appear sad, withdrawn and lonely

If their developmental needs are not met they may;

- Have poor attendance or be regularly late at nursery or school
- Be struggling to achieve at school or nursery
- Have carers that fail to attend nursery/school events and parents evening and show a lack of concern about their progress
- Be unable to socialise well with their peers
- Have limited or no help at home with their schoolwork
- Have no or little sense of achievement and no future plans or dreams

Why we need to prevent neglect in Sheffield

Neglect impacts on all children irrespective of their age, gender, and ethnicity and irrespective of where they live. Neglect may occur before the child is born as a result of maternal substance misuse.

Tackling neglect will make a difference and help prevent the serious long term consequences of neglect which includes;

- Poor growth and physical development/delayed learning .
- Poor attachment
- Poor language development
- Untreated dental decay
- Poor ability to play, socialise and learn
- Behavioural problems in later childhood
- Adolescent violence and anti-social behaviour
- Increased likelihood of suicidal thoughts and attempts in adolescence
- Mental health problems in adulthood
- Difficulties parenting their own children
- Severe neglect can result in the death (including as a result of suicide) of a child or young person



You can get help and support from your health visitor, school nurse, GP, school or college

If you feel you need additional help and support you can contact your local MAST on;

North 0114 233 1189

East 0114 205 3635

West 0114 250 6865

If you are concerned that a child or young person is suffering or likely to suffer harm, call the Sheffield Safeguarding Hub on:

Tel: 0114 273 4855

This document can be supplied in alternative formats, please contact 0114 273 4450

Sheffield Safeguarding Children Board 0114 273 4450 www.safeguardingsheffieldchildren.org



