



Norfolk Safeguarding Children Partnership

The Role of the Neglect Champion

Introduction

Neglect is an area of practice that challenges all professionals, it can cause significant harm to children of all age groups, is the most common form of harm identified, both locally and nationally. Neglect Champions have been identified across all agencies within Norfolk. The role is crucial to the success of the Neglect Strategy, developed as one of the priority areas of the Norfolk Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP) and will be supported by the NSCP.

Aim of role

The aim of the role is to provide support to practitioners working with children and families. The extent to which any Champion within an agency can support other practitioners will vary from one organisation to another. This role description outlines core elements of the role, which all Champions will provide, and more detailed components that only some Champions will achieve, depending on their agency, role and experience. It also outlines what Neglect Champions can expect to support them in effectively undertaking the role.

What support can Neglect Champions expect?

- Two neglect learning events per year
- Two Champions' forums per year
- Termly Neglect Champions' Newsletters
- Access to NSCP Neglect training
- Support from Norfolk County Council Practice Coaches
- Opportunities to interact informally with the Neglect Champions' network

Core elements

All Neglect Champions will be expected to:

- Advise and support other practitioners within their organisation in Neglect cases
- Advise and support other practitioner with using the Graded Care Profile where appropriate
- Receive and disseminate information regarding Neglect to colleagues
- Make colleagues aware of the single agency awareness raising module
- Signpost practitioners to appropriate help and advice in relation to neglect
- Attend training and awareness sessions to create depth of knowledge and practice in relation to Neglect
- Model good practice with Neglect cases

Some Neglect Champions may be able to take on extra responsibilities within their agency, such as:

- Deliver single agency training
- Deliver awareness training to single or multiagency groups
- Advise practitioners on management of cases
- Facilitate case discussions where Neglect is an issue using Signs of Safety mapping
- Facilitate case supervision around Neglect cases
- Develop expertise in this area of work including development of tools
- Sharing examples of good practice in multi-agency forums

There is an expectation that agencies will allow Champions time within their work schedule to undertake their additional responsibilities as a Neglect Champion. How much time is allocated will depend on the level of responsibility.

The implementation of the Neglect Strategy will be a dynamic process; more elements of the potential usefulness of the Champion role will develop over time. Some organisations may want the role to rotate, although there would be benefits in developing an expertise in the champions over a period of time. Champions may feel it appropriate to develop those within their organisation to increase the awareness.

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