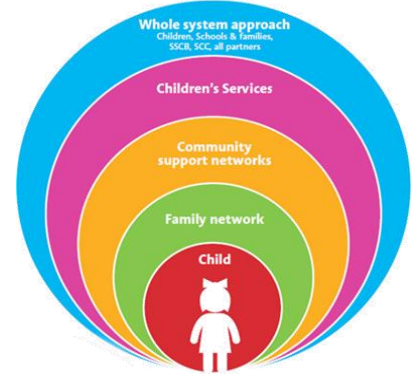


## SURREY SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD NEGLECT STRATEGY 2017 - 2020

### Why do we need a strategy?

- The NSPCC estimates **1:10 of all children experience neglect**
- The impact of neglect on children and young people is well researched. **Neglect causes great distress to children, can lead to poor health, poor social and educational outcomes and can be fatal.**
- **As of 31 July 2017, 69% of children subject to Child Protection plans in Surrey were under the category of Neglect**
- Two out of the five **published serious case reviews in Surrey in 2016** were on a CP plan under the category of neglect.



### Aim of the strategy:

- SSCB aims to prevent and reduce neglect so that children experiencing neglect are identified, supported and have improved outcomes

### OBJECTIVES OF THE STRATEGY

#### Leadership and Organisational Culture:

- All partner agencies to identify, prevent and reduce neglect

#### Recognition:

- Raise awareness and create a common understanding of neglect across agencies

#### Early Identification:

- Assessment
- Intervention
- Information sharing
- Agreed thresholds reducing statutory involvement

#### Workforce Development:

- Collaboration
- Consistency in approach
- Professional curiosity
- Supportive organisational culture

#### Quality Assurance:

- Creating learning organisations
- Measuring effectiveness
- Involving children, young people, carers and workforce in evaluations

### WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

#### Further strengthen our commitment to addressing neglect across all partner agencies:

- Re-launch the Neglect Strategy.
- Understand the extent and prevalence of Neglect in Surrey.
- Develop a Surrey Neglect Toolkit for professionals that enables early identification of Neglect
- To tackle neglect at an early stage work with other strategic boards in Surrey to raise public and community knowledge of the indicators, and where to go for help

#### Provide support to professionals enabling them to improve their identification, assessment and intervention of children and young people experiencing neglect

- Implement the multi-agency [SSCB Levels of Need](#) and a specialised Neglect Toolkit to promote identification and assessment of neglect ensuring thresholds are clear and unambiguous in relation to neglect
- Contribute to the implementation of the Safer Surrey/Signs of Safety methodology across the partnership to support earlier identification of neglect, a common language and strengths based approach ensuring the child and family is at the centre
- Ensure that an understanding of neglect is embedded in multi-agency and single-agency safeguarding training
- Build upon the mapping of Early Help Services within Surrey to identify what is available to address neglect across the continuum and identify any gaps
- Ensure all partner agencies have current, effective and clear neglect guidance embedded in their practice

#### Creating learning organisations, measuring effectiveness and involving children, young people, carers and workforce in evaluations

- Monitor and challenge the effectiveness and impact of the Neglect Strategy in reducing Neglect
- Develop a multiagency data set that monitors practice and impact of the neglect strategy
- Liaise closely with the SSCB Quality Assurance Sub-Group and enable multiagency and single agency audits to ensure quality and effectiveness of interventions
- Where learning is identified ensure robust plans are in place and impact of learning being taken into practice.
- Ensure children and young people are central to decision making affecting them at an individual and strategic level.

### How will we know we have made a difference?

- Children, young people and families referred for services report that their voices were heard
- Reductions in incidents of neglect whilst acknowledging that figures may initially rise (due to better recognition and awareness) particularly at Early Help levels where neglect is a feature
- Increase in use of Early Help services to support children and families where neglect is a concern
- Reduction over time of children subject to a Child Protection plan due to Neglect in comparison to our statistical neighbours
- Reduction in the number of repeat referrals to Children's Services post Child and Family Assessment where neglect is a feature
- Improvement in school attendance
- The SSCB Neglect toolkit is used by practitioners across Surrey to assess neglect

