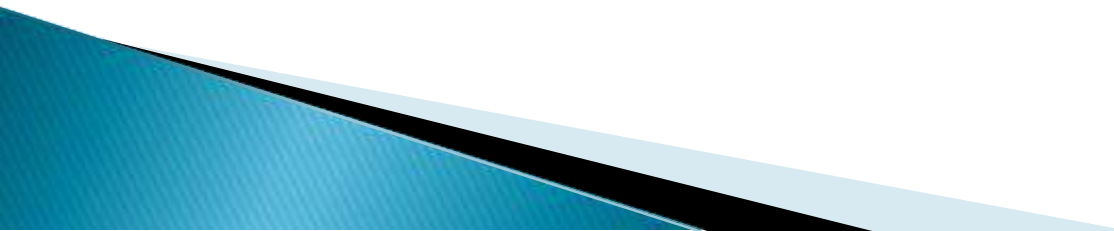


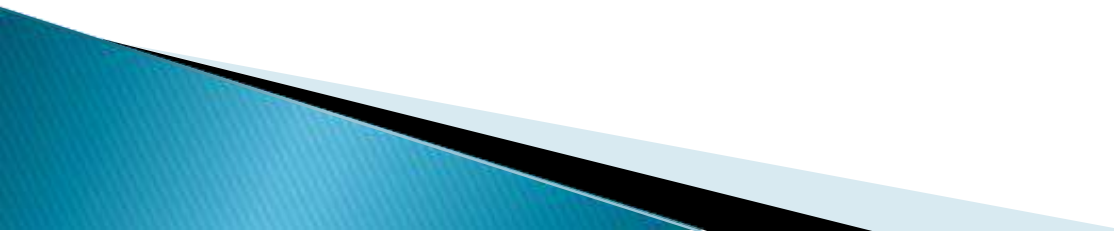
Child Neglect

Dr Tara Jones, Surrey-wide designated GP for
safeguarding children

What is neglect?

- ▶ The failure to meet a child's basic needs
 - ▶ Over a period of time, or one-off event
 - ▶ Incidents often fail to meet social care/criminal thresholds
 - ▶ Cumulative effect most impactful
 - ▶ Overlap with other types of abuse
 - ▶ Can result in serious long-term damage, and even death
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Categories of neglect

- ▶ Physical; basic needs, supervision
 - ▶ Emotional; omission of love, failure to nurture
 - ▶ Educational; failure to ensure an education
 - ▶ Medical; failure to provide appropriate health care, refusal of care, ignoring medical recommendations
- 
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The scale of the problem

- ▶ 1:10 children have experienced neglect (Radford et al 2011)
- ▶ Commonest reason for child protection action
- ▶ March 2016 national figures 46% of all children subject to a child protection plan
- ▶ Surrey 69% (July 2017)
- ▶ *Why the difference??*

Potential effects

- ▶ Serious and long-lasting
- ▶ Neurodevelopmental impact
- ▶ Language delay
- ▶ Physical injuries
- ▶ Poor school attendance
- ▶ Negative impact on mental health
- ▶ Permanent disability
- ▶ Death



Potential indicators (general)

- ▶ Home; dirty, unsafe
- ▶ Nutrition
- ▶ Cleanliness
- ▶ Clothing inadequate for conditions
- ▶ Living in dangerous conditions (drugs, alcohol, violence)
- ▶ *Good enough? Or not good enough?*
- ▶ <http://www.surreyscb.org.uk/professionals/guidance-protocols/>

Potential indicators (medical)

- ▶ Failure to receive basic health care
- ▶ Failure to seek medical treatment when child ill or injured
- ▶ Child is angry, aggressive, self-harming
- ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dAdNL6d4lpk>

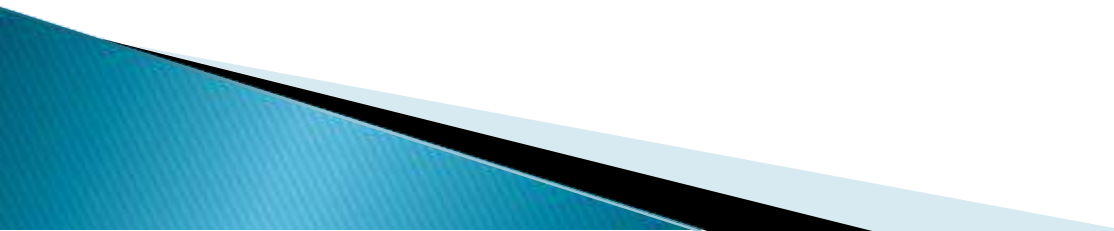
Parental risk factors

- ▶ Failure to meet child's needs (*cannot or will not?*)
- ▶ Lack necessary skills or support
- ▶ Mental health issues
- ▶ Substance misuse
- ▶ Domestic abuse

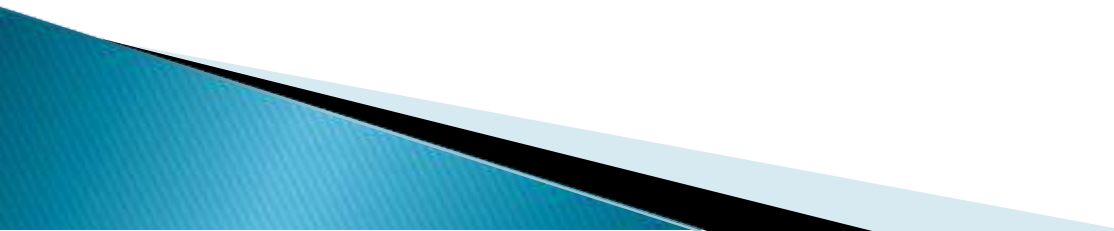
- ▶ Young carers?

What can we do in primary care?

- ▶ Family focus
 - ▶ Challenge parents
 - ▶ See and hear the child
 - ▶ Follow up missed appointments
 - ▶ Speak to other professionals
 - ▶ Share information appropriately

 - ▶ *And what are we already doing well?*
- 
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The GP role in the recognition of neglect

- ▶ Wokingham JTAI, published July 2017
 - ▶ “Highly effective practice”
 - ▶ Hidden/hard to detect neglect in affluent areas
 - ▶ Contact with adolescents
 - ▶ Holistic care → strengthening confidence and resilience
 - ▶ Robust alert systems
- 

Links and references

- ▶ <http://www.surreyscb.org.uk/documents/2017/10/sscb-neglect-strategy-2017-2020.pdf/>
- ▶ <http://www.surreyscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/SSCB-Working-Together-to-Stop-Child-Neglect-bulletin-March-2018-final.pdf>
- ▶ <http://surreyscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Child-Neglect-Be-Professionally-Curious-Practitioners-Guidance-Note-2015.pdf>
- ▶ <https://www.actionforcarers.org.uk/what-we-do/surrey-young-carers/>
- ▶ <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-protection-system/case-reviews/learning/gps-primary-healthcare-teams/>
- ▶ <https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprobation/inspections/wokinghamjtai/>

Thank you; any questions?

