

ADOLESCENT NEGLECT

RESULTS of a MULTI-AGENCY AUDIT 2015 Swindon LSCB

WHY DO an AUDIT

'a lack of developed understanding and awareness of adolescent neglect across the multi-agency network leads to an uneven balance between 'troubled' and 'troublesome' adolescents which makes child centred practice less likely.'

SYMPTOMS and SIGNS Adolescent Neglect
Difficulty solving problems
Lack of creativity and language skills
Relatively easy onset of frustration or anger
Poor and/or inconsistent school achievement
School absences
School dropouts
Arriving early to and leaving late from school avoiding going
Non-engagement of young person
Non-engagement of family
Poor self care
Missed appointments
Hyper alert and watchful
Withdrawn or passive
Overly-compliant
Little confidence in the future, with high levels of daily stress
Inability to trust
Is there evidence that signs of neglect have been misinterpreted as Learning Disabilities or r behavioural issues in relation to this young person?
Depression
Anxiety disorder
Anti-social personality disorder
Substance dependence
Suicidal ideation
Criminal activity
Being abusive parents themselves

TROUBLED OR TROUBLESOME

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Impact of Neglect on the Developing Brain

- ▶ Overdevelopment in areas that control anxiety, impulsivity, affect regulation and hyperactivity
- ▶ Deficits in cortical functions (problem solving) and limbic areas (empathy)

REMEMBER the TOXIC TRIO in the family

- **Mental illness**
- **Substance misuse**
- **Domestic Violence**



Which Agencies Participated?

Police
Great Western Hospital
GPs
Child Protection Conferencing – Child, Families and Community Health
Probation
Schools
CAMHS

What to do if you have concerns

- **Document concerns and the Impact on YP of those concerns**
- **Talk to School Nurse if in school**
- **Discuss concerns with Contact Point or Named or Designated Professionals**
- **Escalate if concerns not addressed**

RESULTS

Of the 31 young people who were perceived as troubled and / or troublesome, only 18 cases documented neglect and in only 15 cases was long term neglect considered to be a factor. It could be in the 5 cases that 'don't know' those young people could also be experiencing neglect but nobody has recognised the symptoms