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WSCP NEWSLETTER



04 EDITION January 2022



Message from David Peplow

Independent chair and Scrutineer



Following the newspaper coverage around the very tragic deaths of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson last year, brings home more poignantly how important our work is in safeguarding children. We express our condolences and the sorrow we all feel to the families. We will be looking to share any learning from these cases in due course.

I know that many of you are feeling very upset regarding what happened to Arthur/Star and it may bring back memories of families you have worked with. If you are affected, please remember to speak to your manager or seek other advice available within your agency.

Useful website - [KRSCP Vicarious Traumatism Webcast - YouTube](#)

The Wandsworth Safeguarding Children Partnership would like to thank staff across the partnership for their hard work and vigilance and going the extra mile in protecting children in Wandsworth during the Covid-19 lockdown and beyond. The ease down of lockdown back in July seems such a long time ago, however, the new variant Omicron reminds us that this is not

over and we will have to continue to remain safe with families and work colleagues by adhering to changing government guidance.

However, as we start the New Year, we can look back with admiration at all the hard work and support we offered to children and families in Wandsworth. We know we made a difference.

With the updated Neglect Strategy implementation of the Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2) neglect tool, we are working towards making Wandsworth a safer and more knowledgeable place to work.

We don't know what 2022 will bring but by continuing to work as a collective partnership, we build on the relationships that have enabled us to carry on through these difficult times.

Working with Neglect



- Neglect on children is the most prevalent reason why people contact the NSPCC
- Neglect featured in 75% of cases reviewed nationally
- Did you know that in November 2021 53% of children on Child Protection plans were on for neglect?

What are we doing in Wandsworth?

Neglect is notoriously difficult to define, however, one feature that perforates through different definitions is an acknowledgment that it involves the breakdown or absence of a relationship of care (Turney 2000).

The Neglect Strategy had been updated. This strategy has been developed with multi-agency partners to set out Wandsworth's approach to child neglect. It identifies the key principles under which work should be undertaken, and recognises key priority areas of work, to ensure continuous collective improvement within Wandsworth.

Neglect Tool

Wandsworth is working closely with the NSPCC to implement the Graded Care Profile 2 Neglect Tool. Some of you will have already attended the awareness sessions and others have undertaken the one day training to become licensed practitioners. The tool is a licensed product.

To apply for the one-day course click [this link](#) – it will take you to TPD.

You can find out more about [GCP2 Neglect Assessment Tool](#) on the WSCP website.



The Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2) Neglect Tool is for professionals and designed to provide an objective measure of the care of children who are, or maybe suffering from neglect. It is primarily based on the qualitative measure of the commitment shown by parents or carers in meeting their children’s developmental needs.

GCP2 Grade	Scale of Care
1	Always met All the child's needs are always met, and the parent goes the extra mile. The child is always first.
2	Met All essential needs are always met. The child is priority.
3	Met most of the time Most of the time the essential needs of the child are met. The child and the carer are at par.
4	Not met most of the time Most of the time the essential needs of the child are not met. Child is considered second.
5	Never met The child's essential needs are not met. May be due to intentional disregard. The child is last or not considered.

Child Safeguarding Practice Review



Learning from Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

In June 2021 the WSCP held a Learning from Experience (LfE) event on a child called Frankie, medical neglect was a key feature of this case. As part of the event, attendees were asked to reflect on the below:

Challenge Questions



1. What was Frankie's Lived experience how might we have worked with a 3-year-old?
2. What communication strategies could we have used?
3. How might we have heard Frankie's Voice?
4. What familial protection might we have assessed and what cautionary signs might there have been?

READ : Frankie 7 Minute Brief

On September 21, the WSCP held a Learning from Experience event 'Why do we neglect, Neglect ?' on a child called Jamie following a Learning Audit. Other agencies held their own events to share the learning.

We asked attendees to make pledges that would improve practice around:

- Hearing the voice of the child
- Understanding the child's lived experience
- Identifying hidden harm

One of the key learning from this review is **'THINK FAMILY'**



Take home message

"Thinking Family" is about making sure we don't miss risks to vulnerable family members, whether they are a child or an adult.

Whatever "client group" you are working with stay alert - "see the child and see the adult" and pick up the phone to speak to someone who can help....including other professionals.

"Thinking Family" isn't complicated - but you need to remember to do it!



Useful reading from the
NSPCC

**NSPCC
'Learning'**

Bracing for impact: lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and the response to child abuse and neglect.

WeAuthors: Andrea Repine, Jennifer Macaulay and Stephanie Anne Deutsch

Format: Article

Summary: Discusses professional learning during the COVID-19 pandemic in response to child abuse and neglect. Looks at: the emergence of technological adaptations; lessons learned about protective family-level factors and experiences; and the need for increased family support.

Journal: Advisor (Vol.33, No.2), July 2021, pp 20-25.

NSPCC Learning has released a two-part podcast series about **recognising and responding to child neglect**. Over the course of two episodes, the NSPCC's development lead for neglect talks to expert practitioners who have worked with children and young people experiencing neglect.

The episodes cover: what neglect is; why it can be challenging to conduct assessments around neglect; why neglect happens; and what can be done to support parents or carers when there is neglect.

See also on NSPCC Learning > [Protecting children from neglect](#)

[Listen to the podcasts: Recognising and responding to child neglect](#)

[Listen to episode 46 on YouTube](#)

[Listen to episode 47 on YouTube:](#)

NEW Guidance and Legislation



WSCP Baby and Infant Safe Sleeping Practice Guidance

This guidance has been produced to provide a consistent message and approach to safe sleeping to prevent baby/child deaths and this applies to day and night sleeping arrangements. Sudden Unexpected Death in Infants (SUDI) continue to be one of the leading causes of death in the community and in many cases modifiable factors are identified regarding the babies sleeping environment.

This work is aligned to the recommendations made in the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel's national thematic review of sudden unexpected death in infancy (SUDI) published in July 2020. You can read Wandsworth [Safer Sleep Guidance](#) on the WSCP website.

Serious Incident Notifications

The data on this was published in June 21. It shows an overall increase over the previous reporting period, a particular increase in cases relating to children under one and 42% of notifications relate to child deaths. Data can be [found here](#).

Other Information

What's behind the rise? anorexia, ARFID, binge eating, bulimia, other specified.

Authors: Anna Scott

Format: Article

Summary: Focuses on the rise in eating disorders among children and young people during the coronavirus pandemic. Discusses how there was a three-fourfold increase in eating disorder cases in 2020 across the UK. Looks at: who eating disorders affect; the impact of lockdown; service provision; and the role of community practitioners, including health visitors.

Journal: Community Practitioner (Vol.94, No.4), July/August 2021, pp 38-43

Other Safeguarding News



Family Safeguarding is coming to Wandsworth – Keeping Children Safely with their families

On the 24th January 2022, Family Safeguarding will be launching and Wandsworth are proud to be the first authority in London to adopt this new way of working.

Family Safeguarding provides a whole family approach to supporting children in need of help and protection. It focuses on meeting the needs of both children and the adults around them to enable more children to remain safely at home with their families.

This is primarily achieved by embedding specialist adult practitioners within children in need and child protection teams to work together with social workers to address issues of abuse or neglect within a family setting, particularly around the three key areas of adult need (domestic abuse, substance misuse and mental health).

Find out about how [Family Safeguarding](https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/familysafeguarding) works, the benefits, team structure and much more on the Wandsworth website :

<https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/familysafeguarding>

Further updates on the progress of Family Safeguarding will be available in future newsletters.

Contact us

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Concerned about a Child or Young Person

Contact: **MASH**

[Make a referral to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub \(MASH\) - Wandsworth Borough Council](#)

☎: 020 8871 6622 @: mash@wandsworth.gov.uk

Concerned about a Vulnerable Adult

Safeguarding Adults Board Coordinator: Ally Smith

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