**Herefordshire Neglect Strategy 2024-2027**



Herefordshire’s approach to preventing and reducing the impact of child neglect.

# Foreword

We know that the experience of neglect in childhood can have significant and long-term consequences, affecting many areas of a child’s development and their lives into adulthood. Nationally, neglect is the most common type of abuse experienced by children, and in Herefordshire it accounts for a significant and growing proportion of children. The Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Partnerships’ (HSCP) have made responding to and reducing Neglect as a key priority.

The strategic aim of the HSCP is to prevent and reduce neglect and to improve the safety and wellbeing of children and young people in Herefordshire. To achieve this, it is vital that neglect is recognised early and that all agencies involved in the care of children in Herefordshire work together and have a consistent, timely and appropriate response to a child considered to be at risk of physical harm, emotional harm, neglect or abuse.

Through the implementation of this Neglect Strategy we aim to raise awareness and understanding of neglect, and the need for effective intervention and support to families, across partner agencies.  It is directly linked to the ‘Think Family’ approach, which underpins our safeguarding response.   Neglect is something that can be identified; and, through providing good support to parents, carers, children, young people and families, we can reduce both its prevalence and the impact.

In this way we hope to have a real impact on improving children’s lived experience in the County.

Kevin Crompton

Chair HSCP

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# Introduction

In March 2024, the NSPCC published a [briefing](https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/media/3mud4vch/statistics-briefing-neglect.pdf) *to consider what data and statistics are available about child neglect to help professionals, and the organisations they work for, make evidence based decisions.* This report highlighted that neglect is the most common form of abuse, and:

The most likely reason for a child in Herefordshire to need support and/or protection is neglect. Neglect can cause significant and long-term harm but can be hard to identify. All children and young people (including unborn babies) need adequate food, water, shelter, warmth, protection and health care in order to thrive. They also need their carers to be warm and consistently emotionally available as well as to provide them with stimulation, guidance and boundaries. Children are neglected if the things they need to develop, and grow are not provided for them.

In Herefordshire, we are committed to making a difference to the lives of children and young people in our communities. We want Herefordshire to be a great place to be young, where all children and young people thrive and feel safe from harm and neglect.

The key aim for the practitioner working with neglect is to enable and ensure a healthy living environment which in turn enables healthy relationships for children.

# Our Aim in Herefordshire

The strategic aim of the HSCP is to prevent and reduce neglect and to improve the safety and wellbeing of children and young people in Herefordshire. To achieve this, it is vital that neglect is prevented, recognised early and that all agencies involved in the care of children in Herefordshire work together and have a consistent, timely and appropriate response to a child considered to be at risk of physical harm, emotional harm, neglect or abuse.

# Our Objectives



* Multi-agency strategic leadership is in place to tackle child neglect in Herefordshire.
* Improved awareness and recognition of neglect
* Develop a multi-agency dataset that highlights the prevalence of neglect and assesses the interventions put in place to support children and families who have experienced neglect.
* Prevent and minimise the incidents of child neglect and improve the effectiveness of responses to neglect including assessment.
* Improve training and improved use of the Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP)

# Our Key Principles

The UN convention on the rights of the child underpins this strategy and should be promoted by all organisations working with children and their families.

In working to safeguard children and young people, Herefordshire Local Safeguarding Children Partnership will strive to ensure all children:

* Are protected from violence, abuse or neglect
* Receive an education that enables children, to fulfil their potential
* Are raised by, or have a relationship with, their parents/ families
* Are able to express their opinions and be listened to

“*All children have these rights, no matter who they are, where they live, what their parents do, what language they speak, what their religion is, whether they are a boy or girl, what their culture is, whether they have a disability, whether they are rich or poor. No child should be treated unfairly on any basis*.”

(UN convention on the rights of the child; Article 2).

In order to be successful, this strategy is grounded in the following principles for local partnership working:

* 1. **Seeing and hearing the child** - in all of our work on neglect, it is vital to listen, hear and observe the child, and to focus on their experiences and the impact neglect has had - and is having - on their lives. This means understanding what a day in their life looks and feels like from their perspective.
  2. **Participation of parents and carers** – as with hearing the voice of the child or young person, it is equally important that the earliest opportunity is taken to work collaboratively with all parents and carers - including fathers - to ensure they are listened to and involved in discussions and decision making. Practitioners who work for organisations that provide services directly for parents (rather than for children) may be ideally placed to gain the perspectives of parents and facilitate a collaborative approach to help achieve the best outcomes for the child/ren.
  3. **Meaningful conversations** with relational people, at the earliest opportunity – we want children, young people and families to receive the help and support they need by being able to have meaningful conversations, with services they already access, as early as possible. This includes conversations with practitioners who work directly with adults; professionals need to consider if the adult they are supporting has parental/caring responsibilities and identify at the earliest opportunity any needs that may impact on their care of a child.
  4. **Right conversations, with the right people, at the right time** - we want children, young people and families to receive the right support and help at the right time, as early as possible in the life of a problem. Preventative and early help responses to neglect are critical to avoid issues escalating and children experiencing cumulative and further harm. Our approach to neglect must recognise and respond to the needs of all family members holistically; we cannot lose sight of the child in addressing the needs of their parents and carers, or provide children and young people with short-term responses to neglect without addressing the root causes.
  5. **Restorative practice** - work with families to address neglect must maintain a focus on investing in the relationships we have with children, young people and their families, and with colleagues and partners to improve outcomes, prevent or resolve harm. All practitioners and agencies, even those who may not work directly with children, have a responsibility to offer both support and challenge to families and to each other in order to respond robustly to neglect, whilst utilising the strengths of whole families.

# What is neglect?



Neglect can be difficult to define as there are no clear cross-cultural standards for best or ‘good enough’ child-rearing practices.

Society generally believes there are necessary behaviours a caregiver must provide a child for the child to develop physically, socially, and emotionally. Although there can be an individual incident of neglect it is very important to notice patterns of neglectful behaviour rather than one off incidents.

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 defines neglect as:

*The persistent failure to meet a child’s basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child’s health or development.*

Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

* provide adequate food, clothing, and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment)
* protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger
* ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate caregivers)
* ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment
* provide suitable education

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child’s basic emotional needs.

As well as the statutory definition, it is important to have regard to the specific needs of children that are often subsumed under the term ‘failure to meet basic needs’. Professor Jan Horwath (2007) identified additional categories to consider. These include:

* 1. **Medical neglect** – this involves carers minimising or denying children’s illness or health needs, and failing to seek appropriate medical attention or administer medication and treatments including dental treatment.
  2. **Nutritional neglect** – this typically involves a child being provided with inadequate calories for normal growth. This form of neglect is sometimes associated with faltering growth in which a child fails to develop physically as well as psychologically. However, failure to thrive can occur for other reasons, independent of neglect. More recently, childhood obesity resulting from an unhealthy diet and lack of exercise has been considered as a form of neglect, given its serious long-term consequences.
  3. **Emotional neglect** – this involves a carer being unresponsive to a child’s basic emotional needs, including failing to interact or provide affection, and failing to develop a child’s self-esteem and sense of identity. Some authors distinguish it from emotional abuse by the intention of the parent.
  4. **Educational neglect** – this involves a carer failing to provide a stimulating environment, show an interest in the child’s education at school, support their learning, or respond to any special needs, as well as failing to comply with state requirements regarding school attendance.
  5. **Physical neglect** – this involves not providing appropriate clothing, food, cleanliness, and living conditions. It can be difficult to assess due to the need to distinguish neglect from deprivation, and because of individual judgements about what constitutes standards of appropriate physical care.
  6. **Lack of supervision and guidance** – this involves a failure to provide an adequate level of guidance and supervision to ensure a child is physically safe and protected from harm. It may involve leaving a child to cope alone, abandoning them, or leaving them with inappropriate carers, or failing to provide appropriate boundaries about behaviours such as under-age sexual activity or alcohol use. It can affect children of all ages. Parental supervision includes consideration for the child’s safety according to the child’s age and ability including the ability to anticipate potential dangers/risks and take appropriate action as well as the ability of parents to hold a child and their needs in mind, anticipating these needs and responding appropriately (being re-active and pro-active as required).

These observable factors relate to children’s developmental needs including health, education, emotional and behavioural development, identity, family and social relationships, social presentation, and self-care skills.

# National and Local Context



* 1. **National Context**

Neglect is the most common form of child maltreatment in England (Department for Education, 2013; Radford et al, 2011) and the USA (Sedlak et al., 2010).

In England, almost half (43%) of child protection plans are made in response to neglect, and it features in 60% of serious case reviews (Brandon et al., 2012). Radford and colleagues’ study for the NSPCC found that 9% of young adults had been severely neglected by parents or guardians during their childhood (Radford et al, 2011). Yet a number of high profile child deaths (see Laming, 2003; Lock, 2013) have shown that it is extremely difficult for professionals with safeguarding responsibilities to identify indicators of neglect, to assess whether what they have observed is sufficiently serious for them to take action, and to decide on the most appropriate course of action.

Data tells us that the percentage of children living in poverty in the UK has increased in recent years, particularly in working families. Not all children living in poverty will experience neglectful care. However, poverty is an important factor linked with neglect and can significantly reduce parenting capacity.

The Covid-19 pandemic is likely to have increased the risk of children being neglected as it has led to more families experiencing financial difficulties, increased rates of domestic violence, drug and alcohol issues and mental health difficulties. All of these things can mean that children’s needs are not met consistently. In addition to this, children have been out of school for long periods of time, have not been visible to professionals and may have been isolated from other sources of support.

* 1. **Local Context**

The Herefordshire Child Health Profile (2023), compiled by The Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID), concluded that;

“Overall, comparing local indicators with England averages, the health and wellbeing of children in Herefordshire is mixed.’

Herefordshire is home to around 35,900 young people aged under 18 and this is projected to increase to 37,000 by 2025.  Children in Herefordshire generally receive a good education; however this does not necessarily translate into social mobility. Our children and young people are less likely to experience the well-publicised threats of knife crime and gang culture than their counterparts in Britain’s urban centres, but growing up in one of England’s most rural counties presents issues of its own.

Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) has, highlighted how “for many children and young people, the ‘rural idyll’ of living in the countryside is far from reality. There are no cinemas, clubs, or other facilities their counterparts in urban areas take for granted. This isolation from services is often made worse by a lack of transport options and hidden poverty.”

In addition, despite relatively abundant active leisure opportunities, children in Herefordshire are no less likely to be overweight or obese than their peers in England as a whole. The [oral health of children](https://understanding.herefordshire.gov.uk/growing-up/) in Herefordshire is also consistently poor compared to the rest of England.

Neglect accounts as a significant and growing proportion of Herefordshire Children who are subject to a Child Protection Plan (41% of all Child Protection Plans in 2023/24; in 2022/23 this was 33%).

61% Emotional Abuse
33% Child Neglect
3% Physical Abuse
3% Sexual Abuse
52% Emotional Abuse
41% Neglect
5% Sexual Abuse
2% Physical Abuse

Looking at the response to neglect in Herefordshire, since the introduction of the Graded Care Profile (GCP2) neglect assessment tool in 2017:

* 830 professionals have received training in the use of the tool.
* The majority of these have come from three sectors, these being Herefordshire Local Authority, Education settings and Health providers.
* Records show that GCP2 assessments had been completed for at least 326 children between 2018 to February 2023.
* A survey of 43 professionals who had used the GCP2 tool (completed in February 2023) identified the positive impact that it had to help focus the concerns for the family, and help the main parent/carer to understand the concerns and impact it was having on the child.

# Learning from Herefordshire Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

As in many areas around the country, the identification and response to childhood neglect has featured in a number of rapid reviews and local safeguarding child reviews within Herefordshire. This has included:

* The multi-agency responsibility to identify and respond to all aspects of neglect, and the assessment tools and training which support this.
* Educational and emotional neglect and the effects of non-dependent alcohol use by parents on parenting practices.
* The recognition of neglect at its early stages and in all its forms, for example childhood obesity and medical neglect.

Further detail of these cases can be found by following the below links.

[Final-Report-LCSPR-Child-HN\_Herefordshire-January-2024.pdf (herefordshiresafeguardingboards.org.uk)](https://www.herefordshiresafeguardingboards.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Final-Report-LCSPR-Child-HN_Herefordshire-January-2024.pdf)

[SCR-Louise-Executive-Summary\_Final\_Nov2022.pdf (herefordshiresafeguardingboards.org.uk)](https://www.herefordshiresafeguardingboards.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/SCR-Louise-Executive-Summary_Final_Nov2022.pdf)

[Learning-Briefing-SCR-Matthew-2022.pdf (herefordshiresafeguardingboards.org.uk)](https://www.herefordshiresafeguardingboards.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Learning-Briefing-SCR-Matthew-2022.pdf)

# Working with children and young people experiencing neglect



Neglect is complex and can be very difficult to identify and measure. Neglect is an absence or omission of care, meaning that professionals working with children and young people need to measure what isn’t there.

Neglect is cumulative and its impact is often a result of a number of incidents rather than a single action. Because of this, it is really important for agencies to work together, be curious and share any concerns in a timely way. The signs and symptoms of neglect can vary widely. Professionals can disagree about what is ‘good enough’ care and may have different perspectives. Neglect can be uncomfortable to talk about, and historically professionals have been worried about offending parents.

Practitioners working with the adults in the family may become over-optimistic about parent’s capacity to change or focus on the adult’s needs rather than the children. It is important to remember that it is everyone’s responsibility to address concerns about children’s welfare. Neglect can be a deliberate act or it can be unintentional.

In cases where parents understand the impact of their actions on children and continue to cause harm, this should be taken very seriously. In most cases, neglect is a result of the parent or carer’s needs being prioritised over the child’s and support should be offered.

* 1. **Responding and Assessing**

A shared understanding of neglect and that the safety and wellbeing of children and young people is a priority.

* A shared understanding of the consequences of neglect and effects on a child’s health, safety and development including the impact of emotional neglect – taking an ACEs/trauma-informed approach.
* Prevention and early recognition of neglect followed by timely assessment and intervention using a strengths-based and restorative approaches.
* Clarity over thresholds of need and distinctions between, for example, emerging circumstantial neglect or persistent neglect causing significant harm.
* A uniform, consistent integrated approach from all agencies and effective collaboration between them including effective information sharing.
* An early help approach to improve the safety of children and young people, ensuring a variety of appropriate interventions to tackle child neglect and place this within an approach that prioritises contextualised safeguarding – ‘Right Help; Right Time’ is a Safeguarding Partnership priority.
* All agencies have a role in prevention and signposting support and education for parents and carers, such as the Solihull Approach online parenting programme, Triple P parenting groups and the CHAT Team.
  1. **Pre-birth Neglect - Neglect of a child can begin before they are born.**

The impact of pre-birth neglect can include: low birth weight, premature birth, increased risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and impaired brain development.

Warning signs for professionals to look out for might be: poor engagement with antenatal services, history of neglect (with previous children or in own childhood), self-neglect, drug or alcohol misuse in pregnancy, mental health difficulties and learning disability.

* 1. **Neglect in Infants (0-2 years) - Children of this age are most vulnerable to neglect.**

The impact of neglect in infants can include: failure to thrive, increased infections and injuries, poor attachment and growth and/or developmental delay.

Warning signs for professionals to look out for might be: routine appointments missed, not gaining weight as expected, not meeting milestones, speech delay, recurring nappy rash, self-soothing behaviours or a baby that is overly clingy or withdrawn.

* 1. **Neglect in preschool children (2-5 years) - Children are becoming more independent and should be safely learning about the world.**

The impact of neglect in preschool age children can include: speech and language delay, increased infections and injuries, difficulty in managing emotions or behaviour.

Warning signs for professionals to look out for might be: lack of routines, developmental delay, delay in toilet training, under or overweight, untreated health issues, withdrawn or over-familiar with strangers.

**5-18 Years**

* 1. **Neglect in school age children (5+) - This is the stage where the impact of earlier neglect can become apparent.**

The impact of neglect in children over 5 can include: poor social skills, limited attention span, lacking in confidence, difficulty in following rules, difficulty in regulating behaviour and/or emotions, not reaching academic potential.

Warning signs for professionals to look out for might be: poor hygiene and presentation, low school attendance, withdrawn or very demanding of adult attention, hunger, dental decay, under or overweight.

* 1. **Neglect in adolescents - Older children and teenagers can be particularly vulnerable to neglect and require special consideration.**

The impact of neglect in adolescents can include: poor educational attainment, low self-esteem, mental health difficulties, difficulty in forming healthy relationships, risk of exploitation.

Warning signs for professionals to look out for might be: poor school attendance, inability to concentrate, withdrawn or disruptive behaviour in school, self-harm, involvement in criminal or antisocial activity, drug and/or alcohol misuse.

Older children and teenagers can be particularly vulnerable to neglect and require special consideration. As children get older, they need different responses rather than less care and parents can struggle with this.

Young people can present with challenging behaviour as a result of neglect and this behaviour can often be viewed by professionals as ‘typical’ and not fully explored. Neglect of adolescents can also go unseen as children of this age may be able to hide the impact of neglect and meet many of their own needs.

The most common way that older children’s needs are neglected is with a lack of adequate supervision and boundaries. This places young people at risk of harm in the community and online.

Neglect, particularly of a young person’s emotional needs, can be a ‘push’ factor where concerns of contextual safeguarding are identified. It is also important to consider that an older child may have experienced neglect throughout their life, and this could have caused them significant and long-term harm.

# Voice of the Child



Despite neglect being the most commonly identified form of child abuse, it is the least likely to be identified by children. Children and young people are often unaware that the care they receive is neglectful or even different to their peers so we need to be creative in understanding and capturing their lived experience.

The factors that can lead to neglect often mean that a parent/carer can struggle to put the child’s needs ahead of their own. It is easy for professionals working with a family to become distracted from the child’s perspective by these issues.

Practitioners need to ensure the child is central to any assessments or decisions about their care. In order to understand a child’s experience, professionals should use direct work but also observations of their interactions, presentation, behaviour and home environment.

Information from different agencies should also be used where possible to corroborate.

Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership have introduced a Toolkit for professionals working with children to help them capture and understand the child’s lived experience and to use this to inform assessments, plans and interventions.

Children with additional physical or learning needs, with disabilities or long-term health conditions are particularly vulnerable to neglect. This is because their needs can be difficult for carers to meet and because they may be impaired in their ability to communicate and to understand what is happening to them. They may also be receiving care from a number of carers, increasing the possibility of neglect or abuse.

When working with children with underlying additional needs it is, therefore, even more important to ensure their experience is captured. Any speech and language needs should be taken into account and specialist advice sought to understand the child’s needs where appropriate. When considering whether a child is experiencing neglect, a child with additional needs or a disability may experience the same issues as other children but they can also be at risk of other types of harm. These can include failure to meet the child’s communication needs, failure to use equipment that has been provided, failure to provide medication or a special diet or denying the child access to play or stimulation.

# Responding to child neglect

* 1. **Reporting**

**If you think a child is in immediate danger, always contact the police on 999.**

If you’re worried about a child but they are not in immediate danger, you should share your concerns.

* Follow Herefordshire’s child protection procedures. [Concerned About a Child? - Herefordshire Safeguarding Boards and Partnerships](https://www.herefordshiresafeguardingboards.org.uk/safeguarding-information/concerned-about-a-child)
* If you are GCP2 trained, undertake an assessment to evidence your concerns and provide an improvement plan. If you are not trained get some help from a colleague who is trained. A GCP2 assessment must be completed where concerns of neglect are present.
* If you unsure if child neglect is a concern, use the HSCP Child Neglect Screening Tool to help understand what signs of neglect are present, and the impact it is having on the child, which will inform your judgement of next steps. [Child Neglect Practitioner Resources - Herefordshire Safeguarding Boards and Partnerships](https://www.herefordshiresafeguardingboards.org.uk/professional-resources/childrens-policies-guidance/child-neglect-practitioner-resources)
* Contact the NSPCC Helpline on 0808 800 5000 or by emailing help@nspcc.org.uk. Trained professionals will talk through your concerns with you and give you expert advice.

Services will risk assess the situation and take action to protect the child as appropriate either through statutory involvement or other support.

* 1. **Recording concerns**

Neglect is a long-term pattern of behaviour. Adults who are concerned that a child’s needs are not being met should record individual incidents to build up an overview of the child’s lived experience. These records should be shared with other agencies as appropriate and used to decide what support a child and their family need.

* 1. **Assessing neglect**

Assessment tools can help practitioners get a clear picture of how well parents are able to look after their children. This helps professionals make timely evidence-based decisions to improve the child’s quality of life. Herefordshire has adopted the Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2) assessment tool which helps professionals measure the quality of care a child is receiving.

# Delivering against our principles and values



To deliver against these principles and values we in Herefordshire recognise that:

* Public health indicators of child dental care and obesity provide a helpful countywide view of potential child neglect.
* Child exploitation is an increasing area of threat linked to neglect, encompassing sexual and economic exploitation, for example, ‘county lines’ activity – child exploitation is also a priority for the Safeguarding Children’s Partnership.
* Children with special educational needs and disabilities are potentially more vulnerable.
* A ‘whole family approach’ underpins how services work with children and their families and we need to ensure this approach is adopted by all stakeholders.
* Routine assessment of progress made by families and work with children and young people must be measured by impact on outcomes, rather than processes and services involved.
* Practitioners need to be conscious of ‘start again syndrome’, and how it can impact on decision making and professional bias. In these circumstances knowledge of the past is put aside with a focus on the present and on short term thinking. There may, for example, be an unfounded assumption that a new baby, or a different partner, presents an opportunity for the family to embark on a more successful period of parenting, without adequate professional reflection about whether the parental capacity to care for the child has in reality changed. This way of thinking and behaving tends to happen when workers are overwhelmed. ‘Starting again’ is a way of dealing not only with overwhelming amounts of information but also the feelings of helplessness generated by families, especially in long term neglect cases. This strategy prevents workers from having a clear and systematic understanding of a case. Starting with a clean slate can be prompted by a worker leaving (or being away on sick leave) or a new practitioner starting afresh to form an ‘unprejudiced’ view of the case. It can also be prompted by the courts rejecting applications for care orders and instructing workers to give families another chance to demonstrate successful parenting.
* Appropriate statutory action should be taken if sufficient progress has not been made and existing support and intervention have not been successful in addressing the level of risk present.
* Professionals must be “professionally curious” and ask “the second question.” They need to feel confident to challenge families and each other about understanding the situation and the sustainability of any improvements required. Historical information must be considered to inform the present position and identify families at risk of intergenerational neglect.
* The views of children, young people, parents, carers and families must be taken into consideration and lessons should be learned from the experiences of children, young people and families living with neglect.
* We must use both system wide and single agency learning from Rapid Reviews, national and local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews to improve our response to neglect within Herefordshire.

**What we hope to achieve**

Children are kept safe from neglect because Herefordshire is following a clear, systematic, multi-agency strategic approach to tackling child neglect in Herefordshire.

Partner agencies are held to account for their performance and quality of interventions regarding neglect.

The Safeguarding Partnership understands the prevalence and causes of neglect in Herefordshire through our links with other Boards, Partnerships and Groups and from our data.

The impact of long-term neglect is reduced because children and young people who are living with neglect are identified early and the right help is put in place at the right time.

The Herefordshire workforce is skilled, prepared, well trained and works effectively with others to reduce child neglect in Herefordshire.

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

* Parents and carers report they know how to seek advice and support.
* Parents and children/young people say early help services have made a positive difference to their lives.
* Through assessment, parents/carers, children, and professionals identify what is working well and what needs to change.
* Local communities have an awareness and understanding of neglect and can identify local champions to prevent neglect and signpost support.
* Plans to provide support set out clearly what needs to change and how the change will be measured.
* Staff are confident to recognise all forms of neglect.
* Children and young people who are suffering neglect are identified early (at the right time); the right help and support is in place.
* A multi-agency dataset provides a comprehensive basis from which to identify local patterns of neglect and address any new and emerging themes.
* The partnership workforce feels confident in identifying and understanding child neglect ensuring early and effective support and intervention.

# Measuring Success



Our measures of success are:

* Reduction in the number of children supported by a Child Protection or Child in Need Plan for neglect.
* Increase in the number of families receiving support through Early Help.
* Reduction in the volume of new and repeat Multi Agency Referral Forms (MARF) for neglect.
* Increase in the use of GCP2 to recognise and respond to neglect.
* Improved health and educational attendance and outcomes.
* Children and young people tell us they feel safe, and families feel supported

# Useful Resources

Herefordshire Child Neglect Practitioner Resources

[Child Neglect Practitioner Resources - Herefordshire Safeguarding Boards and Partnerships](https://www.herefordshiresafeguardingboards.org.uk/professional-resources/childrens-policies-guidance/child-neglect-practitioner-resources)

Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership website

[Safeguarding Children Partnership - Herefordshire Safeguarding Boards and Partnerships](https://www.herefordshiresafeguardingboards.org.uk/safeguarding-children-partnership)

Herefordshire Right Help, Right Time Levels of Need

[Right Help Right Time Levels of Need\_2\_2024.docx (live.com)](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwestmidlands.procedures.org.uk%2Fassets%2Fclients%2F6%2FHerefordshire%2520downloads%2FRight%2520Help%2520Right%2520Time%2520Levels%2520of%2520Need_2_2024.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK)

Herefordshire Professional Differences Policy

[Professional Differences Policy - September 2022.docx (live.com)](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwestmidlands.procedures.org.uk%2Fassets%2Fclients%2F6%2FHerefordshire%2520downloads%2FProfessional%2520Differences%2520Policy%2520-%2520%2520September%25202022.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK)

Working Together Statutory Guidance (December 2023)

[Working together to safeguard children 2023: statutory guidance (publishing.service.gov.uk)](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65cb4349a7ded0000c79e4e1/Working_together_to_safeguard_children_2023_-_statutory_guidance.pdf)

NSPCC website

[Neglect is also Child Abuse: Know All About It | NSPCC](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/neglect/)

Ofsted – In the child’s time: professional responses to neglect

[In\_the\_child\_s\_time-professional\_responses\_to\_neglect.pdf (publishing.service.gov.uk)](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a7f7091e5274a2e87db5dd0/In_the_child_s_time-professional_responses_to_neglect.pdf)

Department for Education – Missed opportunities: indicators of neglect – what is ignored, why, and what can be done?

[Department for Education (publishing.service.gov.uk)](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a7d94b540f0b65084e760eb/RR404_-_Indicators_of_neglect_missed_opportunities.pdf)

Children’s Society – Understanding Adolescent Neglect: Troubled Teens

[Understanding Adolescent Neglect: Troubled Teens | The Children's Society (childrenssociety.org.uk)](https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/information/professionals/resources/troubled-teens-links-between-parenting-and-adolescent-neglect)

Community Care: [Working with children experiencing neglect: challenges and solutions –](https://www.communitycare.co.uk/2023/09/14/working-with-children-experiencing-neglect-challenges-and-solutions/)

For any questions about this document, please contact the Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership at [admin.sbu@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:admin.sbu@herefordshire.gov.uk)