



Questions to consider when dealing with cases of neglect

This Briefing includes learning from: a WSCB Case Review (Annabel); Multi-Agency Case File Audits (MACFA); and a Serious Case Review about a young girl (Abigail) from Gloucestershire. In all cases long-term neglect was a feature.

Good practice was identified during the recent MACFA; notably evidence of the use of Signs of Safety and the inclusion of fathers in assessments and plans. However, there was still evidence that particular aspects of practice could be improved.

There were learning themes which were present in all the reviews. The questions overleaf reflect this learning to enable professionals and agencies to consider their practice.

The Worcestershire Case Review and MACFA found that tools could be used more effectively to support practice. Worcestershire's Neglect Pathway and Toolkit can be found at: <http://westmidlands.procedures.org.uk/local-content/xkjN/neglect-tools-and-pathways/?b=Worcestershire>



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Learning & Improvement Briefing 4

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<p>Am I starting again with this case?</p>	<p>Have I exercised sufficient <u>Professional Curiosity</u> ?</p> <p>Have I considered the parental history?</p>		<p>Is decision making timely?</p>
<p>Do I tend to minimise the impact of neglect on adolescents?</p>	<p>Have I discussed my concerns at supervision?</p>	<p>Have I considered the cumulative impact of neglect on children?</p>	<p>Am I letting this case drift?</p>
<p>Have I reflected on 'when is enough, enough?'</p>	<p>Have I referred to the <u>Neglect Guidance</u> or used the <u>Neglect Tools</u>?</p>	<p>Have I considered undertaking a multi-agency chronology?</p>	<p>Am I ensuring that the plan is not only child focussed but includes the <u>voice of the child</u>?</p>
<p>Have I triangulated what family members have told me with information from other sources?</p>	<p>Is there a need for a multi-agency reflective supervision session when the parents are not present?</p>	<p>Have I considered if there is disguised compliance in this case?</p>	<p>Do I agree with decisions made or do I need to <u>professionally challenge</u> other agencies?</p>
<p>Is the plan <u>SMART</u>?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific • Measurable • Achievable • Relevant • Timely 	<p>Have I explored the impact of parental behaviour including substance misuse, parental mental ill health and alcohol use?</p>		<p>Do I need to consult with extended family members?</p>