

Cherishing our Families Strategy

2023 – 2026

Neglect is one of the most damaging childhood experiences and is associated with some of the poorest behavioural, emotional and cognitive outcomes.

Neglect is: *'The persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, which is likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. There can also be single instances of neglectful behaviour that cause significant harm. Neglect can arise in the context of systemic stresses such as poverty, and is an indicator of both support and protection needs.'*

Voices of all children need to be heard

Practitioners need time to build trust with families

Finally someone was listening to us

Our Guiding Principles

Voice of the child

Underpinned by children's rights

Focus on families

Empowerment of parents and carers

Right support at the right time

Strengths based

Our Strategic Priorities

Children's voices are heard



- Children's experiences of neglect are at the centre of their care.
- Practitioners have the skills and tools to creatively gather the views of all children.
- Children with complex needs and young children are able to express their views.

Right support at the right time



- Families are able to access the right support, in the right place at the right time.
- Support will be focused on the strengths of the families and will be non-stigmatising.
- Patient and consistent relationships are central to the support provided to families

Improved understanding and collaboration



- Practitioners in all agencies work to the same definition of neglect, are able to recognise the various signs of neglect when working with children, young people and families.
- Each partner agency will provide appropriate and timely responses to children, young people and their families through a multi-agency approach in line with the guiding principles in this strategy.

Addressing Poverty



- Families experiencing poverty are supported to address material hardship.
- Services work together to ensure families are receiving what they are entitled to and are not left destitute when experiencing a crisis.
- Community Planning Partners collaborate to achieve the actions set out in