

Safeguarding Bulletin

April 2022 - Issue 2

Welcome to the latest edition of the Safeguarding Bulletin. We aim to bring you all the latest, relevant help and advice on issues we feel will be of importance to you. As schools, we play a vital role in identifying and protecting children who are having problems at home. By sheer virtue of daily contact, all staff within school are well placed to spot the signs that all is not right.

Neglect

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical, emotional and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health and development.

Keeping Children Safe in Education

What happens at home for children can go hand in hand with what happens in school. Neglect, for example, could manifest itself in patchy attendance, disruptive behaviour, difficult relationships with peers and poor attainment. But this is not an exhaustive list.

Neglect is the most common form of child abuse, it is also the most difficult to recognise.

Neglect rarely presents as a single episode, improvements may be seen at times and deterioration at others. For example a child who presents as tired and hungry one week may not present that way again for a period of time. Changes in parental mental health, finances and stress can lead to children experiencing fluctuating experiences of neglect.

It is therefore important to record all concerns that we notice so that the cumulative concerns build a picture of life for the child, enabling the right support to be put in place at the right time. It should be noted, however, that whilst physical indicators of neglect are often easy to spot, a child who is well presented and equipped for the day, may still be being neglected.



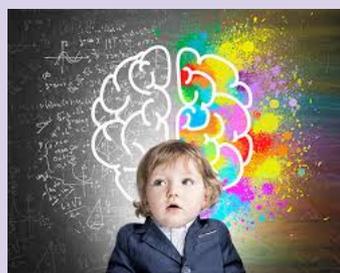
Affluent Neglect - A hidden form of abuse

Affluent neglect refers to the neglect experienced by children in wealthy families. Often, neglect in wealthier families can be more difficult to spot, as the type of neglect experienced by children and young people in these circumstances is often emotional. For more information click [here](#).

Adolescent Neglect

Neglect and emotional abuse in teenagers is often not recognised. Their behaviour may be interpreted as lifestyle choice or acting out.

This leaflet from the [NSPCC](#) summarises the research about teenagers' experience of neglect and emotional abuse. It finds that a better understanding of teenage neglect and emotional abuse enable teenagers to access appropriate and timely help.



Childhood Trauma and the Brain

This short video is a general introduction to what happens in the brain after children face traumatic experiences in childhood like abuse and neglect.

[Childhood Trauma and the brain - UK Trauma Council](#)

Rise in cost of living

The cost of living is on the increase for all, with the rise in fuel prices, energy bills soaring, inflation and tax rises. It is important that we understand the impact of the cost of living on the families in our Trust and the further financial strain on low income families.

Before the pandemic in Dorset, 7,282 children under 16 were living in families with low incomes in 2018-19, the impact of the pandemic has put a strain on these already struggling families and this is likely to rise with the cost of living increases. Living in poverty has a hugely damaging effect on children's lives, leaving them more likely to experience low well-being, poor mental health and with poorer future prospects.



[Poor Kids: Below the poverty Line](#)

This hour long documentary from 2011 highlights the experiences of those children living in poverty in the UK.

Eight year old Courtney, 10 Year old Paige and 11 year old Sam living in different parts of the UK. They honestly talk about how having no money affects their lives: lack of food, being bullied and having nowhere to play. Their thoughts on their futures are sobering. Sam's 16 year old sister Kayleigh puts it all into context, as she tells how the effects of poverty led her to take extreme measures to try and escape it all.

Impact of poverty:

- Children and families living in poverty suffer greater health and social inequalities than their better off peers.
- The negative impacts of poverty on children start before birth and accumulate across the life course.
- Poverty has negative impacts on children's health, social, emotional and cognitive development, behaviour and educational outcomes.
- Children born into poverty are more likely to experience a wide range of health problems, including poor nutrition, chronic disease and mental health problems.
- Poverty puts an additional strain on families, which can lead to parental mental health and relationship problems, financial problems and substance misuse. This can have a negative impact on parenting behaviours which impact children's outcomes.

Parents whose circumstances have changed should be advised to check if they may be eligible to apply for free school meals or pupil premium. Additional support is available for:

- Money Advice
- Grants for Appliances or furniture
- Housing advice
- Clothing
- Birthday Bank for a present for a child's birthday

Please speak with your safeguarding team for further information. If you are a member of staff struggling financially, simplyhealth can offer money and debt advice.



Happy Easter Everyone!

