

## 7 Minute Briefing: Thriving Families and Neglect

### **1. Our Strategy**

The experience of neglect during childhood can have significant, long lasting and pervasive consequences, affecting all aspects of a child's development and their lives into adulthood. It is the most common type of abuse experienced by children in Salford, as it is nationally. We want to ensure that we identify and prevent unmet needs from escalating so that all children in Salford have the childhood they have a right to. We want to change the language around neglect. We have named our work the Thriving Families neglect work so that people feel as though they are supported and enabled to identify areas for development and improve outcomes for their children.

And where families need help, we identify the right people at the right time to provide the support. These are the many reasons we have refreshed our strategy, devised resources and information to support, practitioners, children and their families in Salford.

### **2. Defining Unmet Need and Neglect**

All grown-ups have a duty to uphold Article 27 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child: the right of every child to a standard of living adequate for the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development.

Whilst statutory definition of neglect in Working Together to Safeguard Children refers to 'persistent failure to meet needs', neglect can be episodic or cumulative. It can also be intentional or unintentional.

### **3. What we know**

It is challenging to quantify the exact prevalence of neglect in Salford or number of parents unable to meet their children's needs.

In our needs assessment, professionals report seeing more children experiencing all types of neglect now than they did before with other presenting factors alongside or causing neglect

### **4. What we know..... continued**

Some of the wider determinants are often interdependent of neglect so addressing a single issue will not deal with the underlying causes present. Poverty, mental health, substance misuse, parental childhood trauma, childhood obesity, dental decay, homelessness, school readiness and school attendance are higher in Salford than the national average providing additional pressures on services and can compromise parents' abilities to offer satisfactory care to their children

## 5. The Salford Way

*'It's not what you do, it's the way you do it'*

In Salford, we believe that in order to tackle neglect, we need to change our language and strengthen our approach in the way we work with children and parents who may be unable to meet their children's needs for some, or all of the time. We want to focus as much on helping families to thrive and in turn reduce the prevalence of childhood neglect. We work in a trauma responsive and strengths-based way to support families.

## 6. The Salford Way..... continued

Family members and the wider community are some of the most important sources of support and intervention in safeguarding children. Practitioners also need to understand the lived experience of children, the impact of their adverse experiences and their parent's ability to meet their ongoing needs

To support practitioners and families we have developed the Thriving Families and Neglect tool and Views and Voice [Resources](#) to help capture the lived experience of children and improve the quality of their lives including transitions into adulthood.

## 7. What to do

Reflect on and embed this learning into practice in conjunction with the Strategy, [Needs Assessment](#), [Neglect Examples](#) and learning identified in local [case reviews](#), the [CSPR Panel Annual Report](#) and [Analysis of Serious Case reviews](#)

Practitioners and managers are encouraged to also access multi-agency [training](#) and become familiar with the [procedures](#), resources and tools available i.e. [Thriving Families and Neglect Tool](#), [Views and Voice](#) Resources, [Capacity to Change tool](#), [7 minute briefings](#), to address this learning and strengthen practice in Salford.

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### Additional Information

Visit: <https://safeguardingchildren.salford.gov.uk/>

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