

GCP2 Audit

This briefing highlights good practice, key learning, and areas for improvement from audits where children have experienced neglect and a Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2) tool has been completed.

Good Practice

GCP2 supported plans for children experiencing neglect

- For more than half of the families reviewed, a GCP2 assessment led to improvements being made and the children's plans progressing. For others, the assessment provided evidence for escalation where the plan was not progressing.

Fathers and extended family members were included

- In all families reviewed, efforts had been made by practitioners to involve both parents, even where they were not living in the household. In more than half of the families extended families members such as grandparents had also been included in planning for the child. This is good practice and had a positive impact for the children.

Key Learning

Impact of mental health difficulties and substance misuse on parenting

- In all of the families, parents were noted to experience some level of mental health difficulty and in most cases there was also drug and/or alcohol misuse identified. However, the impact of this on parents' capacity to meet their children's needs was not always understood. Better communication between children's and adults' services would have been beneficial in supporting this understanding.

Medical neglect

- Missed health appointments were a theme for most of the families, but information

was not always shared, and medical neglect not considered as part of the overall picture. When children were not brought to specialist appointments the cases were closed meaning that services were no longer able to support the child.

Improving Practice

- The [Birmingham Neglect Screening Tool](#) should be used where children are not brought to health appointments to consider whether there is a wider issue of neglect.
- Training for practitioners** around the impact of adults' needs on their parenting capacity would benefit those working with children.
- [Completing Childhood Neglect e-learning](#) would benefit practitioners working with adults.
- Ensure GCP2 assessments are reviewed** regularly where children remain open to services rather than being viewed as a 'one-off'.

Next steps

- ✔ Share the briefing with colleagues and discuss neglect at team meetings and practice workshops.
- ✔ Be aware of the impact of parents' needs on the care of their children. Consider attending [BSCP Hidden Harm training](#).
- ✔ Use the [Neglect Screening Tool](#) to identify children at risk of neglect.
- ✔ [Complete Neglect e-learning](#).