



Practitioners Conference

Working Together to Stop Child Neglect in Birmingham



Penny Thompson CBE, Independent Chair of the Birmingham Safeguarding Children Partnership opened the conference and welcomed practitioners to the Repertory Theatre.

‘It is brilliant seeing so many front-line safeguarding practitioners at the Conference, I want to start by thanking you all for the fantastic work you do on daily basis to safeguard children and support vulnerable families in Birmingham’

Graham Tilby and Luisa Fraser started the morning, launching the Birmingham [Neglect Strategy 2022-26: Working Together to Build Strong Family Foundations](#) and promoting the [Neglect Toolkit](#) developed for front-line practitioners working with children and families.

Professor Jan Horwath expounded the causes of childhood neglect and the key components for effective practice in the Keynote Speech.



Who can forget ‘In conversation with Kerry Littleford’, as she told her story of growing up in poverty in Birmingham, it was truly captivating. A number of delegates engaged with Kerry on Twitter to share how they had been moved by her experience.

If you missed the conference, you can [watch all of the above talks on the BSCP website](#).



In the afternoon Dr Joanna Garstang explained the dire consequences of shaking a baby and told us about the [‘Never Ever Shake a Baby’](#) campaign aimed at reducing abusive head trauma.

The afternoon concluded with a lively and stimulating question and answer session with an invited panel of safeguarding experts.



Graham Tilby, Chair of the Neglect Operation Group thanked delegates for their engagement and constructive feedback which will help inform the development of a Neglect Action Plan to concentrate partnership intervention on stopping child neglect in Birmingham.

Penny closed the conference: **‘I want to give a huge thank you to Dave Passley, Learning & Development Programme Manager and colleagues from the Learning & Development sub-group and Business Unit for organising such a great day, and of course our hosts the Repertory Theatre for looking after us and the super lunch.’**

Your Feedback! - Over 230 attended the conference and were able to choose two of our six workshops which all focused on different aspects of tackling Childhood Neglect. The feedback was fantastic, Of 121 respondents 85% (104) said the conference ‘Exceeded Expectations’ and 14% (17) said the conference ‘Met Expectations’ with no one indicating that the conference ‘Missed the Mark’ this all confirms that the conference was a success!



‘Had a useful, informative and inspiring day yesterday at the Practitioners’ conference. It was great to network, gain a knowledge & understanding of the new Birmingham Neglect Strategy & the Graded Care Profile 2 & participate in workshops’