

Childhood Neglect Material

A Resource for Multi-Agency Training

Carla Thomas – Child and Family Training



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The Task



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The DfE website

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The Context



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The Headlines



1973 Maria Colwell aged 7yrs

Poor communication between agencies and inadequate training of social workers to assess risk..

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The Headlines

Assessment and Analysis

**2009 the 'J' children
aged 10 and 11yrs**

....It is apparent that for much of the time and in spite of the services and people involved, most people felt overwhelmed by the complexity and range of problems and need presented by this family




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The Headlines

**2011 Keanu Williams
Aged 3yrs**

Absence of reasonable judgment when making decisions....
Lack of involvement by agencies in the multi-agency process of analysis




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The Headlines

Parenting difficulties

**2002 Ainlee Labonte
Aged 2yrs**

[Workers] paralysed with fear of her parents [led to] failure to carry out a proper assessment of risk




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The Headlines

The Invisible Child

**2000 Victoria Climbié
Aged 8yrs**

The dreadful reality was that these services knew little or nothing more about Victoria at the end of the process than they did when she was first referred...



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The Headlines

**2007 Peter Connolly
Aged 17 months**

Baby P died despite being seen 60 times by professionals

Lack of professional curiosity...[failure of professionals to] adequately focus upon the needs, wishes, feeling and safeguarding requirements of the children

**2008 Khyra Ishaq
Aged 7yrs**




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The Headlines


**2012 – Tia Sharp
Aged 12yrs**

No professional discussed the possible reasons for poor school attendance directly with her or with Child A. It may be that staff at the junior school were disarmed by Child A's engaging presentation and reasonable levels of achievement.




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The Headlines




**2012 Daniel Pelka
Aged 4 ½ yrs**

There needed to have been a greater focus on his day to day experiences...

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The Headlines




**2009 Hamzah Khan
aged 4 yrs**


Practitioners may come to tolerate neglectful behaviour in materially deprived communities and households...

the lack of consensus about what constitutes neglect...

process of normalisation has an impact on how professionals frame or categorise information and understand its significance and relevance


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The Headlines



**2009 Hamzah Khan
aged 4 yrs**

Tools to support professional judgment and practice; availability and use of tools for collating, sharing and analysing information; promoting analytical discussion and revealing underlying and long term patterns such as neglect.


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The Themes

Many of the families where neglect featured were well known to children's social care over many years, often over generations.


The histories of these families, were complex, confusing, and often overwhelming for practitioners.

Neglect is notoriously difficult to work with in a clear, systematic fashion and we know that the chaos and confusion apparent among the families can be mirrored by the practitioners working with the family (Mattson 1975).

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The Themes


One common way of dealing with the overwhelming information and the feelings of helplessness generated in workers by the families, was to put aside knowledge of the past and focus on the present in what we have called the **'start again syndrome'**.

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The Themes


The Invisible Child :
failure of practitioners to adequately engage with the children, and to see things from their perspective (Aldgate and Seden, 2006).

Two thirds of the cases [in the biennial SCRs report 2009-11] refer to the 'voice of the child' not being heard or taken account of.. (Brandon, M. et al 2012)

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None of this is new!!!!

....yet, we seem unable to make a difference



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The Courses




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A Seven Stages Model of Assessment, Analysis, Planning of Intervention and Measure of Outcomes



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- 1 Consider the referral, the safety of the child and the aim of the assessment
- 2 Gather additional information
- 3 Categorise available information and organise it within the Assessment Framework triangle
- 4 Analyse the processes influencing the child's developmental well-being
- 5 Predict the likely outlook for the child
- 6 Plan intervention
- 7 Identify outcomes and measures which would indicate whether interventions are successful



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Target Audiences


Use of the former 'Working Together' 8 groups, identifying professionals according to their involvement with children and families



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The Training Courses

- Address the importance and value of recognising multiple definitions of and perspectives on Neglect
- Can be used for the training of support staff, front-line practitioners, supervisors, managers and LSCB members




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The Training Courses

- Offer a consistent approach to use of material research and delivery
- Help keep a focus on the child

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The Training Courses

- Support practitioners in using the Assessment Framework in a systematic way to assess and analyse information
- Support practitioners in identifying interventions and measurable outcomes for children
- Material can be adapted and complemented to meet the needs of individual authorities and target audiences

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The Training Courses

They are divide in 4 groups:

- Introductory courses
- Focus on the child
- Focus on parenting
- Managing neglect

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Four options:

- Two 1 day courses
- Two 2 days courses

Introductory Courses

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- Focus on Young People
- Neglect of Young People
- Keeping the child at the centre

Focus on the child

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- Focus on parenting capacity
- Parental difficulties and child neglect
- Neglect and parental substance misuse
- Neglect and attachment

Focus on parenting


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- Differing perceptions (half day)
- Managing neglect case (half day)
- Managing neglect cases (one-day)
- Overcoming barriers (one-day)
- Supervising neglect cases (half day)

Managing Neglect




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How to use the material



Childhood Neglect:
A resource for
multi-agency training

Trainers' manual





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- **FREE** training material for you to take away and use
- **Consultation** on the use of the training material:
 - Presentations to LSCBs
 - Cascading/demo to LSCB's LA's trainers
- We can send **trainers** to come and deliver these courses for you

What we offer



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Questions?



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