

North East Lincolnshire Local Safeguarding Children Board. Multi-Agency Practice Audit – Thematic Audit – Neglect (2015)

Relationships matter, where practitioners are successful in building honest and open relationships with children and families this leads to better outcomes for the child.

What Happened?

The themed audit challenge event reviewed five cases where the child had experienced Neglect. Each case had a time for discussion. Auditors, along with practitioners and managers involved with the case came together to consider the audit responses. The challenge event was used to begin to analyse audit findings and propose actions to improve outcomes for children and families across the Child Concern Model.

What Did The Audit Tell Us?

All of the cases had long and enduring histories of neglect

All of the cases had opportunities for identifying Neglect earlier

Resistant and avoidant parenting was a factor in all of the cases. examples of this were

- Parents doing 'just enough' to allay the professionals worries or prevent the case moving up the threshold
- Parents playing professionals off against each other
- Parents giving professionals the impression they are engaging well with other services when in fact this wasn't the case
- 'Red herrings' such as chaotic relationships taking precedent over the impact on the child

Where professionals disagreed with decisions taken on a case they did not follow LSCB procedures in escalating their concerns.

Good management oversight and effective supervision is vital in moving Neglect cases forward and making sure they do not drift.

What Can We Do?

1. Use the Neglect Assessment as soon as you suspect the child is suffering neglect
2. Practitioners should use the LSCB escalation procedure to escalate any concerns they have about practice (link needs to go here)
3. Managers and practitioners to make sure supervision is effective in managing cases and they don't drift.