



# NEGLECT STRATEGY 2024

SUMMARY

## INTRODUCTION

The Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children Partnership (BDSCP), working with the Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Adult's Board (BDSAB), is committed to tackling neglect and minimising the harm caused to families and communities. Neglect has featured in almost every serious case review and partnership review in Barking and Dagenham in recent years.

The effects of neglect on children are significant, in their childhood, through adolescence and into adulthood. Sometimes the effects are fatal. Early identification and timely intervention are extremely important to ensure the safety, wellbeing and continued appropriate development of children and young people.

The Neglect Strategy 2024 will ensure that professionals from all agencies working with children, their families or vulnerable adults in Barking and Dagenham can:

- Confidently and competently recognise and identify neglect in all its forms as early as possible.
- Understand the cumulative and long-term impact of neglect.
- Work together to take timely action to safeguard children and vulnerable adults.

This summary outlines briefly our approach and our priorities to achieve this. All professionals working as part of the BDSCP and BDSAB workforce should be familiar with this summary and the full Neglect Strategy 2024.

## DEFINITION OF CHILD NEGELCT

The BDSCP recognises neglect as the ongoing failure to meet a child's basic needs in order for them to thrive. For the Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Children Partnership Neglect Strategy, neglect is defined as **the persistent failure to meet a child's physical (including medical and nutritional), emotional and psychological developmental (including educational, guidance and supervision) needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development.**

## OUR APPROACH

The Neglect Strategy 2024 aims to:

Prevent and reduce the impact of neglect on children and young people, their families and adults in Barking and Dagenham. We will do this by ensuring:

- Neglect is recognised as early as possible.
- Neglect is responded to consistently and robustly where it is identified across the continuum of need.
- That we learn from national and local practice to continuously improve our offer to children, young people, and their families.

There are a number of principles that underpin this commitment and our ways of working to achieve our aims:

- We recognise that **children of all ages** are affected by neglect, and we need to work to understand their lived experience and how neglect impacts on their development and life opportunities.
- The wellbeing of the child is **paramount** and must never be secondary to the parent/carer's needs.
- We are person centred. The **voice of the child** (or vulnerable adult) must be sought, heard, and acted upon – 'nothing about you without you.'
- We **'think family'** and work with families to help them achieve positive and sustained change using strengths-based approaches and interventions to address concerns.
- We recognise the **inter-familial nature** of neglect, and we work to break the intergenerational cycle of neglect.
- We work **collaboratively and creatively** across partners, being **accountable**.
- All agencies will ensure their workforce dedicates time to regularly refresh and update **knowledge** of neglect.

## OUR PRIORITIES

### 1 - The BDSCP commits to tackling neglect as a strategic priority.

All partners will sign up to the Neglect Strategy 2024 and will work to deliver the aims and priorities of the strategy.

### 2 - Children experiencing neglect are seen and heard.

Our workforce must be equipped to consistently recognise neglect and risk of neglect as early as possible, as well as understand the child's lived experience of neglect.

### 3 - The right help, at the right time, from the right person.

Our workforce must be equipped to consistently respond to neglect – making sure children, young people, families, and adults get the right help, at the right time, from the right person, in the right way. This will include ensuring we can evidence the impact of our interventions, and that we minimise drift and delay especially for those children, young people, and vulnerable adults at most risk of neglect.

### 4 - Learning from practice.

We will ensure that the Neglect Strategy 2024 and related Neglect Improvement Plan are reviewed and updated in the context of future national, regional, and local learning. We will ensure that learning from national and local practice is dispersed across the workforce, and that learning informs our practice. We will also make use of BDSCP quality assurance work, including conducting multi agency reviews.

## IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGY

**All staff** working with children, young people, their families, and vulnerable adults are responsible for ensuring their practice is in line with the priorities of the Neglect Strategy and the action plan to deliver these aims.

There are a documents and toolkits practitioners must be aware of that sit **alongside** this summary. These are:

- The Neglect Strategy 2024.
- The Neglect Toolkit.

The **Neglect Toolkit** has been designed to support practitioners in their roles, providing practical assistance in recognising and responding to neglect. It is available online (<https://lbbd.sharepoint.com/sites/Intranet/SitePages/Tackling-Neglect-in-Barking-and-Dagenham.aspx>) and includes:

- Information on types of neglect, how this can be recognised across different ages of children and young people and vulnerable adults.
- The national and local picture of neglect.
- Learning from national and local neglect case reviews.
- Risks and vulnerabilities for children, young people, families, and adults.
- The NSPCC's Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2), and local supplementary GCP2 guidance and tools.
- Information on services available from prevention to statutory intervention.

There are also a number of **other tools** that practitioners should utilise in order to ensure they are able to effectively tackle neglect, including:

- The LBBDD Domestic Abuse Practitioner's Guidance.
- The Safe and Together approach.
- The Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) signs and indicators toolkits.
- The Brook Sexual Behaviours traffic light tool.
- The Barnardo's Child Sexual Exploitation Risk Matrix.
- The Youth at Risk Matrix.
- The Child Criminal Exploitation tool.
- The Self-Neglect Policy.
- The Pressure Ulcer Guidance.

The **Neglect Improvement Programme Task and Finish Group** (NIPT&FG) has been established by the BDSCP Executive to oversee and drive the delivery of the Neglect Strategy and its action plan (known as the Neglect Improvement Programme). Partner agencies and services are represented on the NIPT&FG.

