

WORKING GROUP: TERMS OF REFERENCE

Neglect Working Group



SCOPE OF THE STRATEGY GROUP

The Neglect Working Group is tasked with supporting the development of an agreed approach to neglect and accumulating concerns.

Neglect is one of the most damaging experiences a child can endure, which can result in the serious impairment to their health and development, both in the long-term and short-term.

This group will have representation from key services and will work towards developing an agreed child-centred approach to assessment in order that children and young people who are subject to accumulating concerns and neglect are responded to timeously.

OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKING GROUP

- 1. Developing a Strategic Approach to Neglect:** Support the development of an agreed approach to neglect and accumulating concerns. This involves ensuring our assessments are child-centred and that all aspects of risk and need are thoroughly covered.
- 2. Enhancing Early and Effective Interventions:** Implement and evaluate the Child Wellbeing Pathway (CWP) to ensure early and preventative responses to children's emerging needs. This aligns with our commitment to the GIRFEC framework, ensuring appropriate assistance from the right service at the right time.
- 3. Strengthening Multi-Agency Collaboration:** Ensure our partnership's work is underpinned by robust multi-agency collaboration, with clear lines of responsibility and effective communication across all partners to minimise risks to children.

WORKING GROUP MEMBERS/SERVICE REPRESENTATION:

TITLE & SERVICE
Education Development Officer for Child Protection (CHAIR)
Lead Officer for the Child Protection Committee
Lead Officer, Housing Service
Quality Improvement Officer for Child Protection, Education Directorate
Policy Officer, Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Supports and Services
Senior Child Protection Nurse Advisor, NHS Fife
Learning and Development Lead, NHS Fife
Detective Inspector, PPU, Police Scotland
Team Manager, Children and Families Social Work
Third Sector Representative, Fife
Team Manager, Communities and Neighbourhoods

EXPECTATIONS OF GROUP MEMBERS:

Members are expected to:

- Commitment to Attendance:** Members should demonstrate a strong commitment to consistently attend meetings.

- **Deputy Arrangement:** In cases of unavoidable absence, members are expected to arrange for named deputies to attend in their place.
- **Meeting Preparation:** Prior to meetings, members must adequately prepare to ensure meaningful participation.
- **Engagement and Accountability:** Members should actively engage in discussions, ready to question and challenge both each other and the services, fostering a culture of professional accountability and reflective feedback.
- **Unique Service Perspective:** Each member is responsible for bringing their distinct service perspective, purpose, and responsibilities to the group, enriching discussions with diverse viewpoints.
- **Information Sharing:** It is incumbent upon members to disseminate relevant information about the subgroup's activities and discussions across their respective agencies and ensure that they have their agencies perspective and full agreement prior to agreeing within the group.
- **Dual Accountability:** Members must uphold accountability both to the group and to their individual service, ensuring alignment and coherence between group objectives and service goals.

MEETINGS:

Meetings will be scheduled every 6 weeks as agreed by the group.

REPORTS TO:

Fife Child Protection Committee.

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