

STOCKPORT ALL AGE NEGLECT STRATEGY

Our Vision

That Stockport is a place where children, families and adults can thrive, living free from neglect and supported by their families and communities.

Links to

Safer Stockport Partnership, Stockport Together, Stockport Family, Supporting Families Executive, Children's Trust Board, Health and Wellbeing Board

What is neglect? (Working Together 2015 & Care Act 2014 Definitions)

Children – neglect can be defined as failing to

- Provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment)
- Protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger
- Ensure adequate supervision
- Ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment
- It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

Adults – neglect and abuse can take many forms. Some examples include:

- Someone who looks after an adult at risk's money using it inappropriately
- Someone ignoring an adult at risk when they need help
- Someone giving an adult at risk the wrong dose of medicine or making them wear too many or too few clothes
- Someone who leaves an adult at risk hungry, in pain or cold whether they are doing it deliberately or not.

Self-neglect – is any failure of an adult to take care of him/herself that causes, or is reasonably likely to cause within a short period of time, serious physical, mental or emotional harm or substantial damage to or loss of assets.

Principles

- A shared understanding of neglect – and the impact on children, young people and adults at risk.
- Person and Child Centred practice – placing the individual at the centre of practice.
- Taking a multi-agency approach – working together as a system
- Working with parents, family and carers as partners
- Recognising the additional vulnerability of children and adults with additional needs such as premature babies, those with special education needs and disabilities.
- Taking a 'whole-family' approach - ensuring that, through enquiry and understanding, the voice of the child or adult at risk is clearly heard.
- Taking a restorative approach - Practitioners and agencies offer both support and challenge to families and to each other whilst appropriately utilising the strengths of the families.

Strategic Aims

1. To improve the awareness and understanding of neglect, both within and between agencies across children's and adults' services.
2. To improve the awareness and understanding of and the response to neglect within all communities including BME groups.
3. To develop a common understanding of neglect and the thresholds for access to agencies.
4. To improve the recognition and assessment of children, young people and adults at risk, living in neglectful situations before statutory intervention is required, including the use of appropriate assessment tools.
5. To develop and sustain an agreed, early multi-agency response to neglect across all ages, which includes wider partners such as pharmacists, dentists, voluntary and community groups.
6. To develop a preventative approach to reducing the incidence of neglect.