# **Childhood Neglect: Choosing an appropriate course**

### **Introductory courses**

| Course title and duration                         | Learning outcomes  | Audiences and other considerations   | Seven-step model | Brief key to audiences and work with children and/or families  |
|---|--|--|------------------|--|
| Introduction<br>to neglect:<br>Option 1<br>1 day  | To recognise signs and symptoms of children and young people who are, or may be, neglected  To assess the nature and extent of a child's developmental needs  To meet a child's developmental needs and support strengths  To review outcomes and measure whether interventions are successful   | 2, 3, 4 Suitable for practitioners working predominantly with children – e.g. nursery workers, youth workers, teachers and children's centre workers   | 1, 2, 3, 7       | <ol> <li>Infrequent contact</li> <li>Regular, or irregular but intense, contact</li> <li>Work predominantly with children and/or families</li> <li>Responsibilities relating to s47 enquiries</li> <li>Professional advisors; named/designated professionals</li> <li>Operational managers</li> <li>Senior managers</li> <li>LSCB board members</li> <li>Brief key to seven-step model</li> <li>Consider referral and safety issues</li> <li>Gather information</li> <li>Organise information using Assessment Framework triangle</li> <li>Analyse processes affecting child's health and development</li> <li>Predict outlook for child</li> <li>Plan interventions</li> <li>Identify outcomes and</li> </ol> |
| Introduction<br>to neglect:<br>Option 2<br>1 day  | To recognise signs and symptoms of children and young people who are, or may be, neglected  To assess the nature and extent of a child's developmental needs  To meet a child's developmental needs and support strengths  To identify concerns about parenting capacity and/or family and environmental factors that may contribute to neglect                                    | 2, 3, 4 Suitable for a multidisciplinary audience: staff working with children, parents/carers and extended family   | 1-4              |  |
| Introduction<br>to neglect:<br>Option 3<br>2 days | To recognise signs and symptoms of children and young people who are, or may be, neglected  To assess the nature and extent of a child's developmental needs  To meet a child's developmental needs and support strengths  To assess family and environmental factors that may affect a child and parenting capacity  To consider effective interventions and measure for outcomes | 2, 3, 4 Provides practitioners with an opportunity to consider some topics in greater depth with an emphasis on assessing parental difficulties such as domestic abuse, mental health problems and parental substance misuse under the family and environmental factors domain | 1-7              |  |
|   | To consider effective interventions and measure for outcomes   |  |                  | 6 Plan interventions 7 Identify outcomes and measures  |

| Course title and duration   | Learning outcomes  | Audiences and other considerations   | Seven-step model |
|---|--|--|------------------|
| Introduction<br>to neglect:<br>Option 4:<br>Assessing<br>neglect and<br>its impact on<br>children's<br>development<br>over time<br>2 days | To support learners in understanding neglect in the context of child development  To explore some parenting issues which may increase the vulnerability of children and young people to being neglected  To assess parenting capacity and environmental factors  To assess attachment and cumulative harm  To assess motivation and willingness to change  To consider effective intervention in neglect cases | 3, 4, 5 Suitable for practitioners working predominantly with children and young people – the course includes more in-depth aspects of child development, including brain development and attachment | 1-7              |

# Brief key to audiences and work with children and/or families

- 1 Infrequent contact
- 2 Regular, or irregular but intense, contact
- 3 Work predominantly with children and/or families
- 4 Responsibilities relating to s47 enquiries
- 5 Professional advisors; named/designated professionals
- 6 Operational managers
- 7 Senior managers
- 8 LSCB board members

#### Brief key to seven-step model

- 1 Consider referral and safety issues
- 2 Gather information
- 3 Organise information using Assessment Framework triangle
- 4 Analyse processes affecting child's health and development
- 5 Predict outlook for child
- 6 Plan interventions
- 7 Identify outcomes and measures

### Focus on the child

| Course title and duration  | Learning outcomes   | Audiences and other considerations   | Seven-step<br>model | Brief key to audiences and work with children and/or families  |
|--|---|--|---------------------|--|
| Focus on young people: Option 1 1 day                                      | To identify concerns about parenting capacity that may contribute to neglect  To assess parenting received by a child  To address factors affecting parenting capacity  | 2, 3, 4, 5 The course is suitable for professionals working with parents and carers, with a focus on parenting and environmental factors, including the role of schools                                      | 1-6                 | <ol> <li>Infrequent contact</li> <li>Regular, or irregular but intense, contact</li> <li>Work predominantly with children and/or families</li> <li>Responsibilities relating to s47 enquiries</li> <li>Professional advisors; named/designated professionals</li> <li>Operational managers</li> <li>Senior managers</li> <li>LSCB board members</li> </ol> |
| Neglect of<br>young people:<br>Option 2<br>1 day                           | To recognise signs and symptoms of young people who are, or may be, neglected  To assess the nature and extent of a young person's developmental needs  To consider tools for communicating with young people  To understand what hinders or facilitates integrated working   | 2, 3, 4, 5 The focus is on the assessment of young people's experience of neglect  | 1-7                 |  |
| Working with<br>neglect:<br>Keeping the<br>child at the<br>centre<br>1 day | To assess the nature and extent of the child's developmental needs  To recognise signs and symptoms of children who are, or may be, neglected  To meet a child's developmental needs and support strengths  To understand the importance of looking beyond a single incident (cumulative harm)  To review outcomes and measure whether intervention is successful | 3, 4, 5  The course can be offered as a follow-up to one of the Introduction to neglect courses, supporting practitioners in maintaining their focus on the experiences of individual children in the family | 3-7                 | Brief key to seven-step model  1 Consider referral and safety issues  2 Gather information  3 Organise information using Assessment Framework triangle  4 Analyse processes affecting child's health and   |
|  |   |  |                     | development 5 Predict outlook for child 6 Plan interventions 7 Identify outcomes and measures  |

## Focus on parenting

| Course title and duration                                 | Learning outcomes   | Audiences and other considerations   | Seven-step<br>model | Brief key to audiences and work with children and/or families  |
|---|---|--|---------------------|--|
| Focus on parenting capacity 1 day                         | To identify concerns about parenting difficulties that may contribute to neglect  To assess parenting received by a child  To address factors affecting parenting capacity  | 2, 3, 4 Suitable as an introductory course for practitioners and can support practitioners in assessing parental difficulties such as domestic abuse, mental health problems and substance misuse and their impact on the parent's ability to care for the child | 1-6                 | <ol> <li>Infrequent contact</li> <li>Regular, or irregular but intense, contact</li> <li>Work predominantly with children and/or families</li> <li>Responsibilities relating to s47 enquiries</li> <li>Professional advisors; named/designated professionals</li> <li>Operational managers</li> <li>Senior managers</li> <li>LSCB board members</li> <li>Consider referral and safety issues</li> <li>Gather information</li> <li>Organise information using Assessment Framework triangle</li> <li>Analyse processes affecting child's health and development</li> <li>Predict outlook for child</li> <li>Plan interventions</li> <li>Identify outcomes and measures</li> </ol> |
| Parental<br>difficulties<br>and child<br>neglect<br>1 day | To identify when parental difficulties may result in child neglect To understand how some parental difficulties may increase children and young people's vulnerability to neglect To understand the impact of cumulative harm on children and young people's health and development To consider effective interventions in neglect cases To measure outcomes for children | 3, 4, 5 The course considers the range of parental problems that can result in child neglect, with a focus on interventions and measuring outcomes   | 1-7                 |  |
| Neglect and<br>parental<br>substance<br>misuse            | To identify concerns about parenting capacity that may contribute to neglect  To assess parenting received by a child  To address factors affecting parenting capacity  | 2, 3, 4, 5 The course focuses on the ways in which parental drug and alcohol misuse may affect the parent's ability to meet the needs of the child   | 1-7                 |  |
| Neglect and<br>attachment<br>1 day                        | To recognise neglect To assess the extent and nature of children's developmental needs To assess the quality of attachments To assess the role of fathers/father figures To consider effective intervention in working with children and their parents  | 2, 3, 4, 5  The course supports practitioners in considering the importance of multiple attachments and their meanings in different family and community structures and/or culturally and ethnically diverse family structures                                   | 1, 4, 6             |  |

## Managing neglect

| Course title and duration   | Learning outcomes   | Audiences and other considerations   | Seven-step model | Brief key to audiences and work with children and/or families  |
|---|---|--|------------------|--|
| Managing<br>neglect cases:<br>Option 1<br>3.5 hours               | To understand and support assessment and analysis processes  To analyse information and predict an outlook for the child  To identify intervention and monitor meaningful change  To consider how to measure outcomes for children and young people | 5, 6 The half-day course is suitable as a refresher course for managers  | 4–7              | <ol> <li>Infrequent contact</li> <li>Regular, or irregular but intense, contact</li> <li>Work predominantly with children and/or families</li> <li>Responsibilities relating to s47 enquiries</li> <li>Professional advisors; named/designated professionals</li> <li>Operational managers</li> <li>Senior managers</li> <li>LSCB board members</li> <li>Consider referral and safety issues</li> <li>Gather information</li> <li>Organise information using Assessment Framework triangle</li> <li>Analyse processes affecting child's health and development</li> <li>Predict outlook for child</li> <li>Plan interventions</li> <li>Identify outcomes and measures</li> </ol> |
| Managing<br>neglect cases:<br>Option 2<br>1 day                   | To understand and support assessment and analysis processes  To analyse information and predict an outlook for the child  To identify intervention and monitor meaningful change  To consider how to measure outcomes for children and young people | 5, 6 The one-day course is suitable as an introduction to managing neglect, including planning interventions and measuring outcomes  | 4–7              |  |
| Overcoming<br>practice and<br>organisational<br>barriers<br>1 day | To understand personal values in relation to neglect  To understand barriers to recognition of, and response to, neglect  | 5, 6, 7, 8  The course is appropriate for both managers and LSCB members, and addresses the question of why practitioners may miss a child who is being neglected          | 4–6              |  |
| Neglect:<br>Differing<br>perceptions<br>Half day                  | To understand the social context of neglect  To understand the barriers to recognition of, and response to, neglect   | 6, 7, 8  The course challenges differing professional and public views on what constitutes childhood neglect and considers the implications for assessing children's needs | 1, 4, 5          |  |
| Supervising<br>neglect cases<br>Half day                          | To understand barriers to recognition of neglect  To maintain the momentum of change  | 4, 5, 6 The course supports professionals and managers responsible for supervising staff involved in assessing child neglect   | 5-7              |  |