MEETING THE MEDICAL NEEDS OF NEGLECT AND EMOTIONAL ABUSE IN CHILDREN

Dr J Wallace ST5 Paediatrics
Dr G Stewart ST7 Paediatrics
Dr A Livingstone Consultant Paediatrician
Neglect

*Neglect* – “the failure to provide for a child’s basic needs.” DOH 2016

One of the most prevalent forms of child maltreatment NSPCC (2011)

It is likely to result in the serious impairment of a child and young person’s health or development.
Neglect in NI

Children on the CPR by trust as of 31 March 2017:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HSC Trust</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Rate per 10,000 child population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belfast</td>
<td>347</td>
<td>45.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern</td>
<td>459</td>
<td>42.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Eastern</td>
<td>388</td>
<td>47.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern</td>
<td>579</td>
<td>60.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western</td>
<td>359</td>
<td>48.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Ireland</td>
<td>2,132</td>
<td>48.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Neglect in NHSCT

Children on CPR by category of abuse & HSCT at 31 March 2018
Rationale for audit

• Following Case Management Review Feb 2013

• SBNI Recommendation: The safeguarding needs of children, especially those who are subject to chronic neglect and ongoing emotional abuse need to receive higher priority within community paediatrics.

• NHSCT Response - Consultation Proforma for CPMS-
all children on CPR for chronic neglect +/- on-going emotional abuse should have proforma completed and forwarded to Community Paediatrics.

(If child needed a medical assessment at any stage for the purposes of establishing supportive medical evidence i.e. specific physical or developmental signs and symptoms of chronic neglect or ongoing emotional abuse they must refer to NHSCT Guidance i.e. Safeguarding Children - Requesting a Medical Assessment for Investigation of Possible Child Abuse as usual)

Are we identifying and addressing unmet needs through use of this Consultation Proforma?
Audit Method

- Review of all consultation forms since implementation i.e. Feb 2016-Feb 2018

- Forms completed by Social Worker (SW) and Public Health Nurse (PHN) i.e. HV/School nurse/Family Nurse (HV/SN/FN) and sent to Community Paediatrics in view of being on CPR for chronic neglect &/or emotional abuse
Information obtained from Consultation Forms

- Demographics
- Category on CPR
- Health issues documented by referrer
- Details of developmental or educational issues
- Did HV/SW/SN/FN state that CPMS assessment was needed?
- Was CPMS assessment offered?
- Outcome
Demographics

- 45% Male
- 55% Female

75 CHILDREN

Ages of Children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ages in years</th>
<th>No. of children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
On Child Protection Register?

** Of those not on CPR
1 case - Previously registered,
1 case - de-registered day of referral
Categories registered on CPR

- 53% registered on CPR included categories of neglect +/- emotional abuse only.
- 47% cases included other categories of abuse i.e.;
  - physical
  - sexual
Siblings on CPR?

- Yes - 75% cases
- No – 21% cases
- Not documented – 4% cases
Health Needs identified by HV/SW/SN/FN?

- Yes – 77% cases
- No – 20% cases
- Not documented – 3% cases
Health Needs identified?

Health Issues highlighted:

- Cardiac
- Respiratory
- Gastrointestinal
- Seizures
- ENT
- Gynae
- Weight
- Continence
- Hearing
- Eyes
- Skin
- Tooth decay
- Immunisations
- DNA appointments
- Behaviour
- ADHD
- ASD
- Mental Health
- Development

No. of cases:
- 0
- 2
- 4
- 6
- 8
- 10
- 12
Developmental or Educational Issues identified by HV/SW/SN/FN?

- Yes – 65% cases
- No – 45% cases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of developmental/Educational issue</th>
<th>No. of cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School Attendance</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational attainment</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning difficulty</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADHD</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASD</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speech &amp; language</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross motor skills</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attention difficulties</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Documented developmental assessment by HV/SN/FN?

- Yes – 2 cases only i.e.; 97% cases did not

- Documented health?
  - Yes – 1 case only i.e.; 99% cases did not.

- Additional information provided?
  Yes – 3 cases i.e.; 96% cases did not.
CPMS review felt to be required by HV/SW/SN/FN?

- Yes: 80%
- No: 19%
- Unknown: 1%
Reasons for request for assessment by CPMS

- **Medical problems, including DNAs**, 22
- **Educational problems**, 4
- **Emotional reasons**, 21
- **Behavioural problems**, 6
- **Developmental problems**, 2
- **For general assessment**, 14
- **Other**: 1-no comment, 2-School nurses hadn’t completed assessment
Was CPMS appointment offered?

- Yes: 11
- No: 71
- Already attends CPMS: 9
- Unknown: 9

% of cases
Reasons why CPMS was not offered?

- Needs already being addressed: 86%
- Educational needs: 3%
- SW input advised: 5%
- SLT advised: 2%
- CAMHS advised: 2%
- Physio advised: 2%
Outcome of appointment

Outcome of CPMS appointment

- Discharge no concerns
- Discharged but referred on to ENT
- Parent refused service
- Not reviewed yet
- Ongoing follow up with CPMS
Intervention for 2 children under CPMS Review

- Query ASD/ADHD – Bloods taken (devpt delay), CRS done
- Query ASD- referred to SLT/OT
Conclusions

• 75 cases referred to CPMS for consultation (43 families)

• Children presenting with a number of medical, educational and developmental needs.

• 80% of cases CPMS assessment was requested

• Assessment offered in 11 % of cases

• 9% cases already under CPMS review

• 86 % cases needs were already being addressed elsewhere
Evaluation

*Is this an effective process?*

- March 2017- **236** children on NHSCT CPR for neglect or emotional abuse or mixed categories

- **75** consultation forms sent to CPMS between Feb 2016-Feb 2018

- In only **8** patients was CPMS assessment thought to be indicated by community paediatricians reviewing the information

- Many forms mentioned emotional health concerns as the reason for requesting CPMS assessment- this would not fall under the remit of CPMS.

- Remit of CPMS – **physical** health and developmental delay
Way forward?

• Are there other more effective ways to highlight children with neglect and emotional abuse who may benefit from CPMS involvement?

• Professionals (SW/PHN) to identify those with unmet physical health needs /developmental delay?

• Discuss findings of audit at Northern Area Safeguarding Panel and feedback to SBNI
• Include section in PHN Report for CPCC to consider referral to CPMS?
• Include section in child protection plan to consider referral to CPMS?
• Potential prospective audit of CPMS referrals originating from new process