

## Why focus on neglect?

Oxfordshire is a prosperous council. Based on the IADCI score<sup>1</sup> Oxfordshire is the 13<sup>th</sup> least deprived out of 152 upper tier authorities with 11.8% of children in low income families in the county compared to 14.5% in the south east and 16.4% nationally.

This translates to a reduced demand for children's social care. In 2016/17 we received 10% fewer referrals than the national average and 11% fewer than the south east.

### Rates of referrals and assessments per 10,000 pop 17-17

	Oxon	England	South East	Stat neighbours
Referrals	494.5	548.2	554.1	537.8
Assessments	470.3	515.0	511.0	481.3

When cases are referred fewer are identified with a need code of abuse or neglect

	Oxon	England	South East	Stat neighbours
N1 - Abuse or neglect	48.3%	52.3%	40.8%	43.3%

### Neglect appears less often as a risk factor in assessment

	Oxon	England	South East	Stat neighbours
% of assessments with neglect identified	14.9%	17.6%	17.0%	20.1%

Therefore the number of assessments for children with neglect in Oxfordshire is lower than elsewhere. Nationally you are 30% more likely to have a social care assessment which identifies a risk factor of neglect than in Oxfordshire, in the South East 24% more likely.

	Oxon	England	South East	Stat neighbours
Rate of assessments with neglect identified	70.1	90.6	86.9	96.7
Compared to Oxon		+29%	+24%	+38%

However when we consider children the subject of a child protection plan – you are 41% more likely to become the subject of a child protection plan for neglect if you live in Oxfordshire, than the rest of the country.

<sup>1</sup> The income deprivation affecting children index (IDACI) is an index of deprivation and measures in a local area the proportion of children under the age of 16 that live in low income households.

### Number of child protection plans starting during the 2016/17 for neglect

	Oxon	England	South East	Stat neighbours
Rate	37.1	26.3	27.1	24.4
Oxon compared to comparator group		41%	37%	52%

This means that around ½ the assessments identifying neglect lead to child protection plans compared to under a third elsewhere<sup>2</sup>

	Oxon	England	South East	Stat neighbours
Rate of assessments with neglect identified	70.1	90.6	86.9	96.7
Plans for neglect	37.1	26.3	27.1	24.4
Conversion rate	52.9%	29.0%	31.2%	25.2%

From our local dashboard, we know that neglect is not specifically named and identified in early help such that

1. Under 2% of early help assessments, compared to 50% of referrals to social care identify abuse or neglect as a primary presenting issue
2. 1% of TAF meetings identify neglect or abuse as a primary presenting issue, compared to 16% of social care assessments; 30% of children in need plans; and 64% of child protection plans
3. Just 12% of children who became the subject of a child protection plan in 2016/17 for neglect had previously had an early help assessment or CAF

### Questions this raises

1. Why does Oxfordshire have more children becoming the subject of a child protection plan than elsewhere?
2. Why does this not seem to be identified at assessment?
3. Why are we not identifying and naming neglect earlier in our pathways?

---

<sup>2</sup> This is strictly not true, as the assessments may be in different years to the start of the plan and the code does not have to be carried through i.e. you can be the subject of a plan for neglect, without it being identified as a risk at assessment