

Most children said that they didn't know they were on a child protection plan for neglect

Children and young people like to be able to speak "at their own pace"

Children told us that sometimes "we don't listen" to them

Changes of worker has a real impact on children and confidence in us. One young person described how her worker "left" her

They don't like being taken out of class, it makes them look "different"

Children said that "head teachers, 'school helpers" and school based counsellors gave them a chance to "just talk with someone".

Children described being asked very sensitive questions about themselves and their families, in public places

Education offers children and young people the chance to "get out of the house", "build confidence" and "make new friends"

Children spoke of not being a part of their own safety planning - they know which adults are safe for them and they can contribute to making good safety plans

Key messages for professionals from children and young people who had experienced neglect in West Sussex



All professionals should regularly ask children if they feel safe

We need to listen to children and their ideas.

It is everybody's responsibility to ensure that children know why we are worried about them and what professionals are doing to try and keep them safe

What we all need to do differently for children and young people

It is important that children are seen away from home to give them an opportunity to share their experiences – we should try to ensure that this doesn't involve taking children out of class

We need to try to reduce the changes in worker for children, as much as possible.

We should aim to advertise safe contact numbers for children to call if they are worried, such as Childline



We should be sensitive to where we ask personal questions of children

It is important that we do the very best we can, to keep children in school or college