



The West Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership Work in Response to Child Neglect

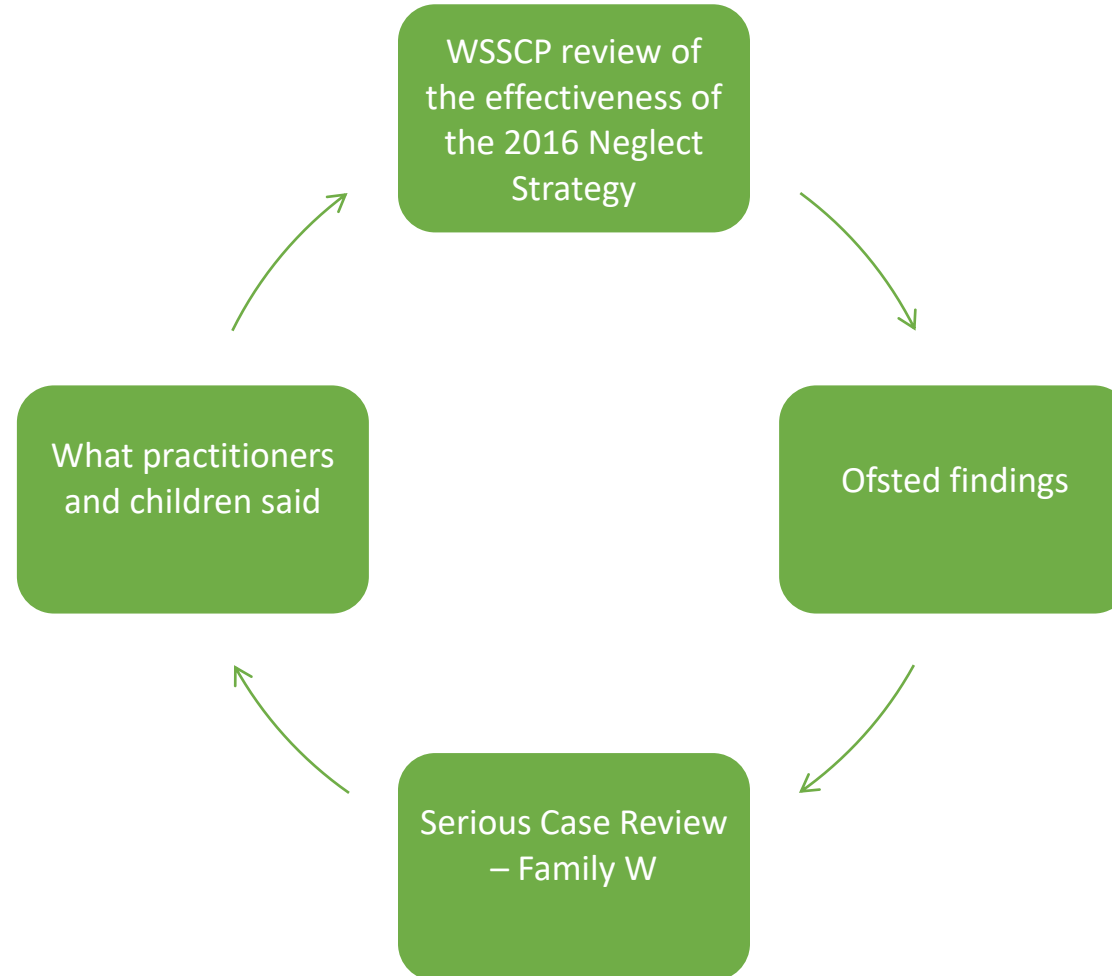
Presented by Siobhan Burns

Independent Safeguarding Consultant and Author of Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews/Domestic Homicide Reviews.

Expectations from today's session

- Understand local learning from Serious Case Review Family W
- Be aware of the work of the Partnership
- Be aware of the tools that should be used in West Sussex
- Practice using the tools with colleagues
- Experience networking with professionals from a range of disciplines

Triggers for change....



Learning from the review: good practice

- Timely assessments were undertaken on the parent's learning disability, advocacy support was sought for the parents and easy to read documents were provided to assist the parents in meeting the children's needs.
- There was positive challenge from a practice manager and an advanced practitioner was allocated to assist in working with the children and their parents.
- The advanced practitioner sought advice from the school and specialist service of how to best communicate with the children.
- There was evidence of some good direct work by the social worker and nurse.



Learning from the review: lessons learnt

- These children were very visible to services: nursery, school, school nurses, family support workers, social workers, police.
- The issue of alcohol misuse was never identified as a risk factor.
- Lived experience of the child was often omitted and did not inform the safety planning.
- Plans were not monitored which resulted in drift and delay.
- Multi agency sharing of information was not always consistent – concerns were raised, but there was a difference of opinion about the harm experienced by the children.
- Concerns that centred on a lack of progress were not formally escalated – no professional respectful challenge.



Learning from the review: lessons learnt

- Over optimism about the parent's capacity to parent.
- Levels of risk to the children were underplayed and not consistently understood.
- Protective steps were not put in place during assessments and child protection planning was not progressing.
- A lack of challenge to adult family members.
- The Graded Care Profile was used but not reviewed.
- Little use of chronologies.



Key themes



PROFESSIONAL CURIOSITY



INCREASED RESPECTFUL
CHALLENGE



CHILD FOCUSED AND
UNDERSTANDING THE LIVED
EXPERIENCE OF THE CHILD



IMPORTANCE OF USING THE
FAMILY HISTORY



NEED TO IDENTIFY AND
CHALLENGE RISKS THAT
ADULTS POSE TO CHILDREN



Improving Services for
Children in West Sussex.....

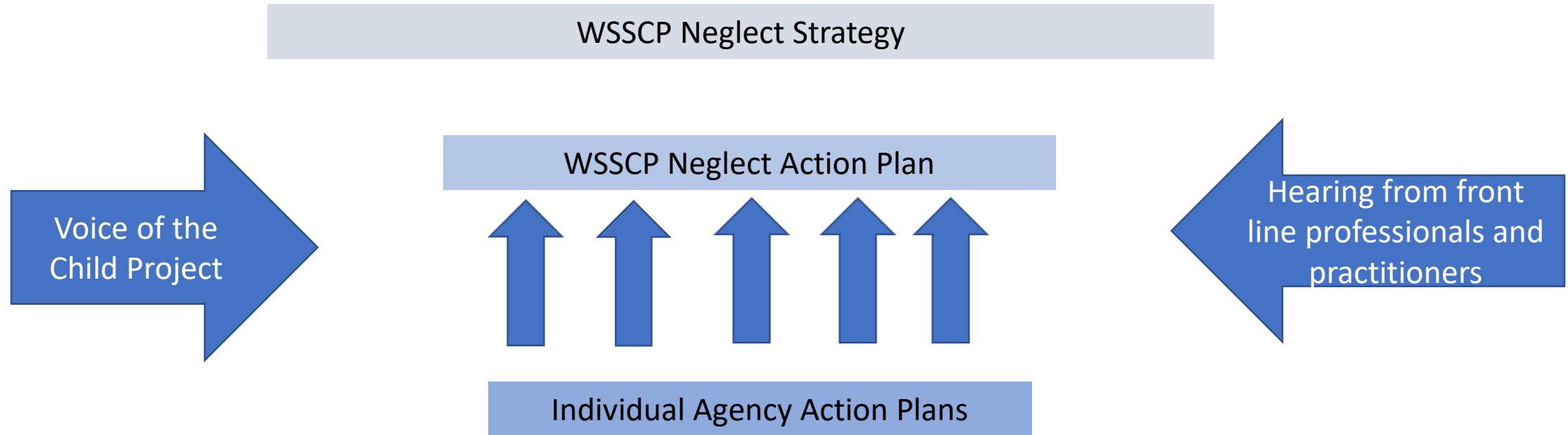




Refreshing the Partnership Strategy

- Establishing the Guiding Principles e.g. Child first, Voice of the child
- Agreeing a model of practice to promote shared language and understanding
- Agreeing new tools for the recognition and response to neglect
- Being clear about good practice and expectations of professionals working with vulnerable children.
- Agreement of the key strategic objectives:-
 - Recognise
 - Respond
 - Evaluate
 - Quantify

Driving Improvement as a Partnership





Partnership Action Planning

CCG (responsible for commissioning health services and ensuring that primary care are meeting their safeguarding responsibilities)

SPFT (Responsible for the provision of CAMHS - Children Adolescent Mental Health Services)

SCFT (Hospitals, health visiting, Child Development Centres, School nursing and a range of other community services for children)

Western Sussex Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (St Richards, Southlands and Worthing Hospitals)

Schools

Children Services

Early Help

Sussex Police



What front line professionals told us about the Strategy and previously agreed Howe model.

- “I haven’t heard about the Strategy or the Howe model.
- Poor communication of the Strategy.
- Things like the Strategy get written but never get embedded ..the loop doesn’t get closed.
- The implementation of the Signs of Safety model was made a priority and “took over”.
- Howe model not universally known – although it was recognised by those that had recently attended training.
- Difficulty in getting onto the training for the wider workforce.
- High staff turnover meant the Howe model didn’t get embedded”.



What front line Children's Services professionals told us about the Graded Care Profile or GCP...

- “High staff turn over made keeping a fully trained workforce difficult.
- Some staff don't have the confidence to use the tool and at times the tool is only being used in part e.g. completing some sections of the tool.
- The messaging about what was expected of social workers and Conference Chairs has been mixed which has led to some confusion about what to use and when”.



Replacing the old Neglect Identification and Measurement Tool with up to date tools...

- “One size doesn’t fit all.
- A complex document to fill in.
- It is difficult to engage families in early help when the tool is entitled “Neglect”.
- The tool is difficult to use if professionals do not get to see the house e.g. schools, hospitals
- The tool can be very time consuming to complete, especially when there are families are made up of large sibling groups and there is an expectation that one tool is completed per child”



Key messages from the children, previously on plans due to neglect

- “I didn’t know I was on a plan”
- “There was no back up plan”
- Children talked about the impact of multiple changes of social worker
- Agreed actions from the child protection planning didn’t happen – there were no consequences (for the parent)
- The young person described the work of the Young Carers Service, which was great helping get a young person back into education and forming new friendships
- A good social worker “listened, but wasn’t too nosey”
- One child found the support in their school helpful. She said “I used to see a counsellor (in school) I told all my worries to her”



Promoting Best Practice in West Sussex.....



The common tools for use across the Partnership for children where neglect is suspected ?

- Chronology
- Day in my life
 - Pre birth
 - Baby
 - Preschool
 - Primary School
 - Teenager
 - A child with a disability



Tools for Children's Services where children are open due to concerns about neglect

Mandatory tools

- A chronology
- The “day in my life”
- Observation of Parent Child Interaction
- Assessment Checklist

Where there are concerns about a child's emotional/behavioural presentation

- Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire



To support the understanding of when to take action.....

The So what do we know? Next Steps? analysis template:

Guides wider children's workforce in developing an analysis of need.

The Neglect Matrix:-

Sets out a range of scenarios and how they fit on the Continuum of Need.

Group work



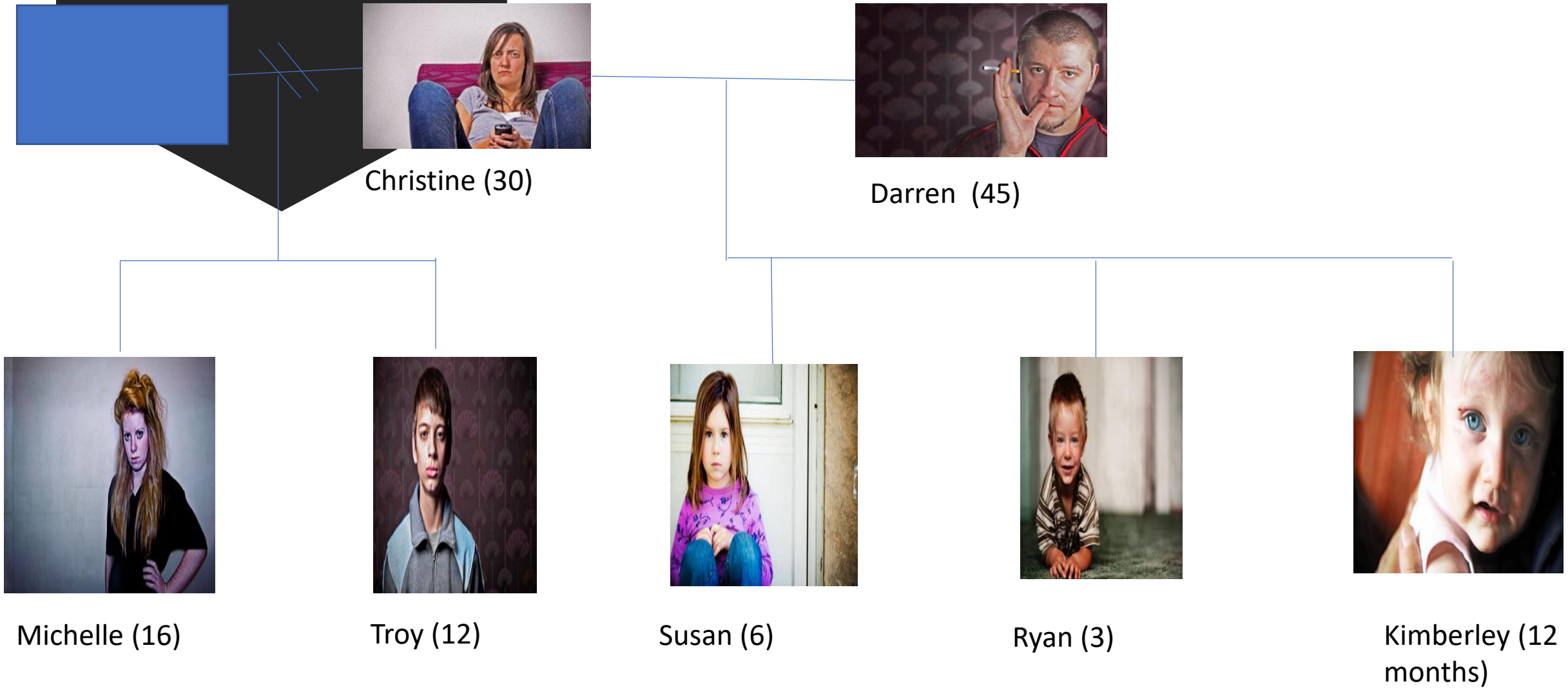
- This exercise **isn't** about the Continuum of need and which services should be working with these children.
 - This exercise **is** about
 - How you use the tools to elicit the lived experience of the child
- And
- How this assists you in developing an analysis



Meet Troy and Susan and Michelle

- Working in pairs with someone from a similar agency:
 - Choose a child to work with
 - Select the appropriate tool or tools
 - Discuss how the tool/s assist in developing an understanding of the lived experience of the child.
 - Discuss how this information can be used to form an analysis of the child's needs

Family tree



Meet the children

- Troy (teenager)
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FrX90xUKVk8&t=43s>
- Susan (primary school)
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ROIGfGGx80U>
- Michelle (pre birth)
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BwAefPTZEfA>

Group feedback

- **Question 1**

Who did you choose and why?

- **Questions 2**

How did you find using the tools?

- **Question 3**

How will these tools assist you in recognising and responding to neglect?

Where to find the tools and guidance.

- <https://www.westsussexscp.org.uk>
- www.socialworkerstoolbox.com



Final scaling – voting using mentimeter