

## **Workshop 2: Child neglect: recognising and responding to unmet need.**

All the evidence shows neglect to be one of the most damaging experiences for children in that it compromises physical, emotional, cognitive and behavioural development. The main risks to these children flow from the extent to which their developmental needs are not met including needs for consistent love and attention, support for education, access to health care and access to friends and fun. Neglected children are the least likely to experience the factors associated with resilience. They are the children who cause professionals a lot of concern because neglect can often be difficult to pin down and define. There is a lot we already know about neglect, including that:

- Children who are neglected don't *ask* for help.
- Parents of neglected children also find it difficult to *ask* for help – especially from social workers.
- Children's unmet needs may often be noticed by others – neighbours, extended family, health professionals, teachers.
- Many people, including professionals, are uncertain about what to do with their concerns.
- Traditionally the 'child protection system' has responded better to *incidents* of harm than to *chronic* circumstances.

In this workshop the main effects of neglect will be set out. The findings of a recently completed international systematic review of the literature on how neglect can be recognised and responded to will be summarised. Participants will have the opportunity to reflect upon how they can best respond to and assist neglect children in the context of their practice settings.

### *Intended outcomes*

By the end of the workshop participants will:

- have an understanding of how neglect is defined and the ways in which the effects are manifested in children
- have an overview of the empirical evidence about how neglected children can be recognised and how their needs can be responded to
- have had the opportunity to consider ways in which they can respond to, and assist neglected children.

### *Selected relevant publications*

Daniel, B.; Taylor, J. & Scott, J. (2008) *Noticing and helping the neglected child: a review of the literature*, Final report to the DCSF & DH

Taylor, J and Daniel, B. (2005) *Child Neglect: Issues for Health and Social Care* London: Jessica Kingsley Publishers