

Neglect

Thursday 24 April 2008



The aim of the workshop is to provide working definitions of child and adolescent neglect for social workers and psychologists involved with children and families. The assessment is based on the Childhood Experience of Care and abuse interview (CECA) - a standardised interview and scoring measure developed

in research work on childhood maltreatment in relation to mental health outcomes.

The workshop will examine research on maltreatment with specific focus on neglect and related experiences of hostile parenting, parental loss, family poverty and disadvantage. Attendees will be shown DVDs of interviews of neglect and will practice rating severity of neglect through case material. Implications for practice will be discussed in full.

The workshop will explore definitions of parental care and neglect in relation to material care (being fed, clothed); regular household routines; health & hygiene; socialisation: neglect of friendships, school work, career options emotional needs & support. Gauging severity in terms of the pervasiveness of neglect and number of areas affected is discussed. The association with parental 'antipathy' (cold or hostile parenting) is discussed as well as other correlates of neglect in terms of social adversity. The relationship between neglect and psychological disorder will be outlined. Assessment and analysis of neglect in practice contexts will be discussed.

Workshop leaders will include Prof Antonia Bifulco (director of the Lifespan Research Group and designer of the CECA), Geraldine Thomas child psychotherapist and expert on assessing maltreatment in children, Sue Skrobanski, lecturer on child protection and freelance trainer in standardised assessment tools in child protection.

Neglect workshop timetable

9.30	Coffee
10.00	Introductions
10.15	Presentation: 'Research Findings on neglect in childhood'.
11.00	Coffee break
11.15	Measuring neglect - Interviewing a mother (DVD) Interview questions and rating severity
12.15	Rating vignettes of neglect (group work)
1.00-2.00	LUNCH BREAK
2.00	Interviewing children and adolescents
2.45	How to use the Neglect assessment in practice
3.15	Open discussion
4.00	Finish