

# TACKLING CHILDHOOD NEGLECT.

## POSITIVE IMPACT ACHIEVED ACROSS ALL SERVICES 2015/16.\*



**73%**

of children have warmer, more supportive relationships with their parent or carer (s).



**71%**

of children live in a clean home and are clean and appropriately clothed.



**75%**

of children are now reaching developmental milestones.

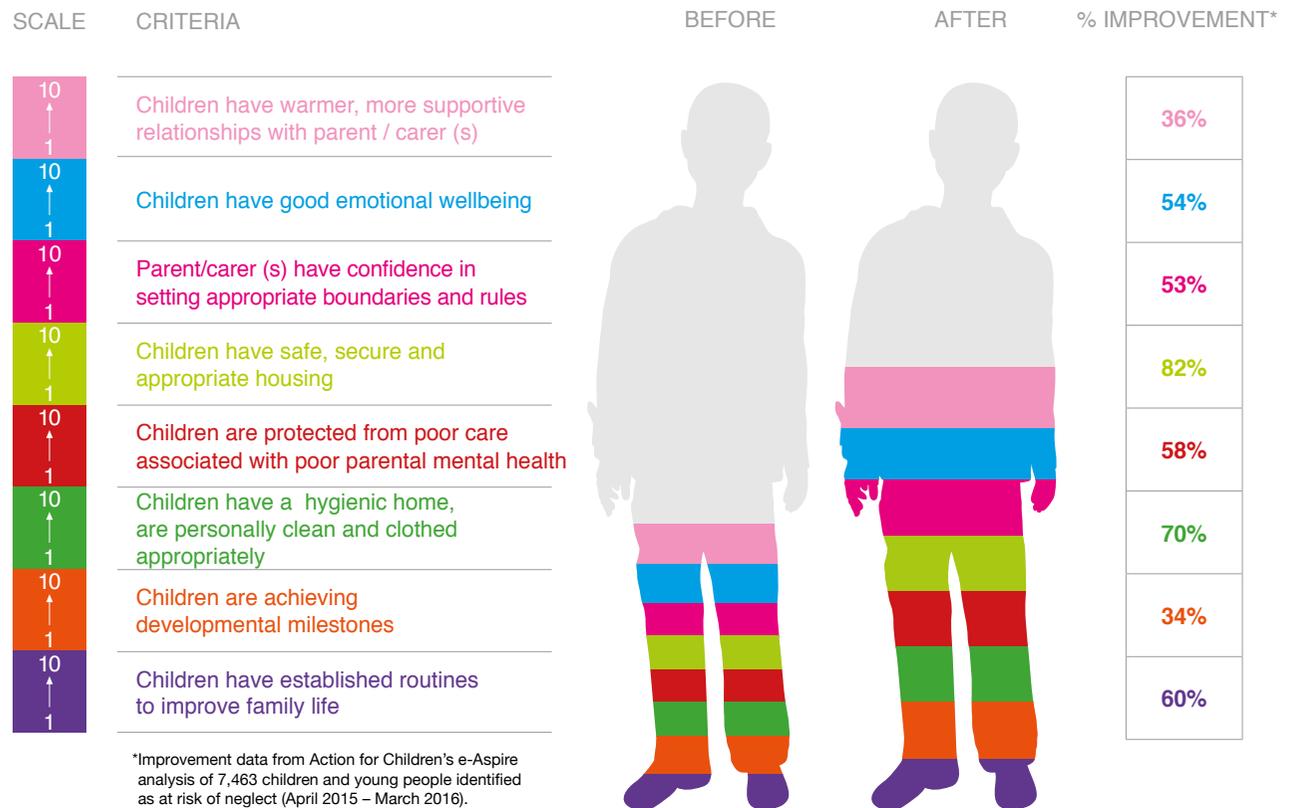


**74%**

of children experience an improvement in family life due to improved routines.

## OUR AVERAGE POSITIVE IMPACT ACHIEVED WORKING WITH AN INDIVIDUAL CHILD.

Action for Children's before and after measures show how basic needs associated with neglect are being met. Before we start working with children there are significant **concerns about their emotional and physical wellbeing due to neglect**. Our after measures show the levels of improvements we consistently achieve and maintain.

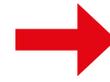




**WHERE THERE'S  
AN URGENT NEED.**



**WE PROVIDE THE  
APPROPRIATE SERVICE.**



**TO EFFECT A POSITIVE IMPACT  
ON THE LIVES OF CHILDREN.**

## **ROBBIE, LUKE AND KACY'S STORY...**

*Robbie, 14, Luke, 13, and Kacy, 12, were leading chaotic lives. They were living on a diet of crisps and snacks, their home was untidy and they lacked basic family routines and boundaries.*

Their mum, Lucy, had been out of work for 15 years; her financial troubles had made her deeply depressed and rent arrears had put the family at risk of becoming homeless.

The children's poor school attendance also meant their education was suffering. They lacked any ambition and thought the only way to get a nice car was by drug dealing.

*The children were referred to Action for Children by their school - the family needed urgent support.*



## **HOW HAS LIFE IMPROVED FOR LUCY'S CHILDREN?**

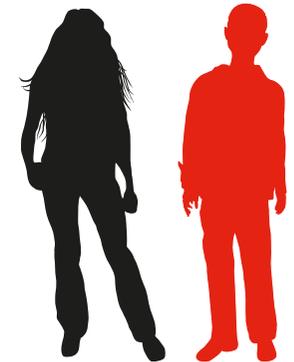
Our Family Partners worked with Lucy to first of all to tackle the immediate concerns in the home, and then to give her confidence to create positive routines for her children; their home is more ordered, they're eating better, and their school attendance has improved.

*We helped her get the benefits she was entitled to, so the family is no longer at risk of losing their home or falling into further poverty.*

Lucy is also now attending a computer course and looking for voluntary work giving the family hope for the future and the children a positive role model. They're beginning to talk about jobs they'd like to do, such as becoming a police officer or shopkeeper.

## **NEGLECT IS THE MOST COMMON FORM OF CHILD ABUSE IN THE UK TODAY.**

Up to 1 in 10 children suffer from neglect<sup>1</sup> and it features in 60% of serious case reviews into a child's death or serious injury.<sup>2</sup> Often coupled with family mental health issues, substance misuse or domestic violence, it robs children of their childhood and can have lifelong implications. Our latest analysis show that almost 4 in every 10 children referred to us are at risk of neglect.<sup>3</sup>



## **HOW WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR NEGLECTED CHILDREN.**

**We're skilled at identifying problems and taking action, implementing a 'whole family' approach with intensive support if appropriate. We make sure children are safe, secure and supported by warm, positive relationships, helping them become healthier, happier adults who may, one day, become parents themselves. We provide:**

- **Family Partners to support parents change their behaviour:** We support parents to enhance their parenting skills by, for example, developing greater emotional warmth or establishing family routines.
- **Support to young people at risk of entering care or custody:** We work to improve family relationships, reduce substance abuse and antisocial behaviour to give young people a better chance of doing well at school, in training and employment.
- **Expertise to influence government policy:** We continue to influence Government policy on how to tackle child neglect and share our researched and evidence based approaches with the police and other professionals whose work shares our aims.

(1) Radford, L. et al (2011) Child abuse and neglect in the UK today.

(2) Brandon et al (2012) New learning from serious case reviews: a two year report for 2009-11. London: Department for Education.

(3) Action for Children e-Aspire analysis of 19,179 cases identified 7,463 children at risk of neglect (April 2015 - March 2016).

The picture and name of the children and mother helped by Action for Children has been changed to protect their identity.