Audience  Groups 1-8 (Working Together 2010)

Methods  Small group exercise; large group feedback

Preparation  No additional preparation.

Links to Common Core

Common Core 3 Safeguarding the welfare of the child (knowledge: self-knowledge). Know that assumptions, values and discrimination can influence practice and prevent some children and young people from having equality of opportunity and equal protection from harm.

Common Core 5 Multi-agency working (skill: assertiveness). Have the confidence to challenge situations by looking beyond your immediate role and asking considered question.

Learning Outcomes

To understand personal values in relation to neglect.

Process

This exercise aims to reflect what influences our perception of neglect. This is an introductory exercise which might be particularly useful for a variety of practitioners who work within voluntary, independent and community organisations.

Break the participants in to small groups and ask them to undertake the following activity.

Note the images that spring to mind when you think about children’s experiences of neglect.

Continued

Time

Total : 30 minutes
Discuss with the group what has influenced these associations, considering the examples below and any others that you are aware of.

- Are they historical? For example, overcrowded streets of industrial cities in the Victorian era?
- Are they drawn from the experience of children living in poorer countries?
- Are they affected by media or by the advertising of children’s charities?
- Do they have an association with communities marked by levels of deprivation?
- To what extent are they an adult’s interpretation of neglect?
- To what extent are they linked with the image of the child as free to play without adult supervision – in spite of limited play opportunities?
- Are they based on a particular child you have encountered either in your own life experience or in your work?
- How are they affected by your own childhood experiences?

Ask the groups to feedback to the larger group for discussion.