

'Neglect' increase

NINE out of ten teachers, cops and social workers regularly come into contact with kids they suspect are suffering neglect, a report has revealed.

But 40 per cent of them feel powerless to help because of a lack of time and resources.

The report for charity Action For Children found that 14 per cent of professionals reported a rise in suspected neglect over the past year.

Dame Clare Tickell, the charity's chief executive, said: "Vulnerable children are falling through cracks in the system."



ALL MUTTS TO BE REGISTERED BY APRIL 2016

Chipping dogs will save kids

Says mum of bite victim Keiron

A NEW law will force mutts to be microchipped – after an army of Sun readers backed our Safer Dogs campaign.

Owners, whose details will be on the chip, will face prosecution if their pet attacks someone.

Our campaign was prompted by the case of Keiron Guess, who was so badly savaged by a neighbour's Staffordshire bull terrier that he was left without his nose, an ear and part of the bones around one of his eyes.

Luckily, surgeons could reconstruct his face and save the sight in one eye.

The two-year-old was attacked in a neighbour's garden last June and the law then stated owners could not be prosecuted if their dog attacked a person on private property.

This has also now changed, along with the compulsory micro-chipping. Keiron's

By JENNIFER TIPPETT

mum Stacey Drury backed The Sun's campaign.

The 23-year-old, who lives with her partner, scaffolder Anthony Guess, 23, and their three kids, Mackenzie, five, Keiron and baby Hollie-Marie, says: "If the dog that attacked Keiron had been microchipped it may have prevented what happened."

"If a lost dog is found it can quickly be reunited with its owner, but more than anything it will mean the owner will have to take responsibility for their animal's actions."

Chipping for all dogs under three years old will be free, with charities funding the £35 fee.

Stacey, of Swindon, Wilts, says: "The Sun's campaign has pushed the Government into taking notice."

"People have got to see the devastating consequences of what happens when a dog is out of control. We just hope Keiron's story will prevent another person being scarred for life."

Additional reporting: AMANDA REVELL WALTON

HOW TO DO IT

ALL dogs must now be microchipped by April 2016.

There are several places that will do it for free, including animal charity the Blue Cross and London-based Battersea Dogs and Cats Home. See bluecross.org.uk and battersea.org.uk.

Between March and April, the Dogs Trust will do FREE chipping weekends across the UK. Visit chipmydog.org.uk for dates and times.

The RSPCA also offer microchipping for those on low incomes. Visit rspca.org.uk. Or you can head to a Pets At Home branch and pay £15.



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DUM-DUM BULLETS

Reports of shots saw armed cops and a helicopter scrambled in Great Notley, Essex – to an official clay pigeon shoot.