

NEGLECT SCREENING TOOL

Definition of Neglect

Neglect is described in Working Together 2015 as:

‘The persistent failure to meet a child’s basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child’s health or development.

Neglect may occur during the pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

- provide adequate food, clothing or shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment).
- protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger,
- ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate caregivers).
- ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child’s basic emotional needs.’

Purpose of Screening Tool

Is to equip frontline practitioners to:

- identify signs of neglect at an early stage,
- alert the need for further action and or/assessment e.g. Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2)
- Identify which agency/organisation/practitioner will progress further assessment/intervention as needed. Always check with the Continuum of Need to ensure that the safeguarding of children is not missed

Child Protection / Safeguarding Statement

This screening tool does not replace the SPB and/or your own safeguarding policy and procedures in cases where you are concerned that a child/young person has been or is at risk of immediate harm.

Using the tool

The tool is intended for front line practitioners within all partner agencies to quickly identify areas of concern which may indicate a child/young person is being neglected. It is intended to complement existing tools E.G Child and Family Assessment, Early Help Assessment (EHA), Child Sexual Exploitation Took Kit (CSE) or other screening/assessment tools and should be used accordingly.

The tool is designed to be applicable to all ages of children and should help you identify Neglect and associated factors across all age ranges.

In order to complete this tool, it is essential that you can evidence the reasons why you have highlighted concerns for any of the factors indicated. Only complete the parts of the tool you are certain about. If you are unsure about completing the assessment seek appropriate help within your organisation.

It is essential that where you have highlighted areas of the assessment where you are **very concerned** or **sometimes concerned** that you provide further information to evidence these concerns.

If you do not know please leave the areas blank as that will be areas that will be reviewed when the form is being processed

Identifying details

Name Next of Kin

Date of birth or EDD Contact tel. no.

Address

Have you discussed your concerns with parent/carer? YES/NO

Name & Role of practitioner/agency

Date completed form

Additional agencies involved:

1. (Name of Org & professional) _____

Date last involved:

2. (Name of Org & professional) _____

Date last involved:

3. (Name of Org & professional) _____

Date last involved:

4. (Name of Org & professional) _____

Date last involved:

5. (Name of Org & professional) _____

Date last involved:

Category: Emotional and behaviour	Very concerned	Sometimes	Not concerned
Relationships with peers/support networks are poor			
Child feels or is excluded by family			
Evidence of emotional withdrawal			
Attachment disorder: anxious, avoidant, socially unresponsive			
High criticism, low warmth from parent/ carer			
Non-biological partner appears to resent the child			
Child seeks inappropriate Physical comfort from a stranger/professional			
Under-stimulation evident			
Exposed to inappropriate films, websites, games or materials			
Shows reluctance to go home			
Self-harm			
Episodes of missing or running away			
Child has Inappropriate carer responsibilities for other family members			
Emotional and Behaviour – Issues Noted	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Not Sure <input type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

Category: Environmental factors	Very concerned	Sometimes	Not concerned
Human and animal excrement			
Unsafe unhygienic home environment			
Little or no bedding/furniture			
Rural isolation/Poverty			
Animals pose a level of risk			
Poor housing			
Unidentified adults or young people in the home			
Inadequate supervision in and outside of the home			
Learning and play environment			

Comments:

Category: Health/physical care	Very concerned		Not concerned
Frequent attendance at A&E and/or hospital admission (be clear of reason)			
Poor weight (loss or gain)			
Untreated or persistent head lice or other infestation			
Poorly managed or undertreated health conditions			
Refusing help/services			
Developmental delay			
Poor personal hygiene of child (self- care and care delivered by parents)			

Substance abuse of child/adult/household member			
Missed and Continuously failing appointments, not addressing health needs/treatments			
Inappropriately dressed for time of year clothes are not clean and do not fit.			
Not Registered with a G.P			
Not registered with the dentist, poor dental hygiene , attending dentist and dental appointment.			

Comments:

Category: Parenting	Very concerned		Not concerned
Poor inappropriate family support			
Inappropriate language/poor boundaries for own behaviour			
Fails to give child appropriate boundaries for behaviour			
Domestic abuse			
Mental health difficulties			
Substance abuse all forms of substance misuse			
Disguised compliance -involves a parent or carer giving the appearance of co-operating with agencies to avoid raising suspicions, to allay professional concerns and ultimately to diffuse professional intervention			
Aggressive or threatening behaviour towards professionals			
Leaving children with inappropriate carers/babysitters			

Lives from day to day			
Unrealistic expectations of child			

Comments:

Category: Education	Very concerned	Sometimes	Not concerned
Non-attendance at school/nursery			
Cognitive delay			
Inadequately prepared for nursery/school/college			
Lack of parental/carer engagement with nursery/school/college			
Withdrawn/lethargic and or extrovert and demanding			
Unexplained extremes of behaviour			

Comments:

Category: Feeding and eating	Very concerned	Sometimes	Not concerned
Little or no food in cupboards			
Stealing/scavenging food			
Presents at nursery/school/ college as hungry			
Does not have a breakfast			
Excessively hungry			
Inadequate diet			

Excessive weight gain/weight loss			
Inadequate area to prepare food			

Comments:

Food and Eating Habits – Issues Noted

Yes No Not Sure

Health and Physical care – Issues Noted

Yes No Not Sure

Parenting – Issues Noted

Yes No Not Sure

Safety and Supervision – Issues Noted

Yes No Not Sure

Emotional and Behaviour – Issues Noted

Yes No Not Sure

Environmental Factors – Issues Noted

Yes No Not Sure

Educational Needs – Issues Noted

Yes No Not Sure

Can you provide the additional service/support needed?

Yes No

If you answered 'no' or 'not sure' to any of the previous questions, or it is not clear what support is needed, would a Graded Care Profile 2 assessment help? Yes No

If you answered 'Yes' to the previous question, who will do this assessment?

I will another practitioner will

If you feel that your concerns need referring to Children and Families Hub, please attach this screening tool to the Service Request Form when making the referral. Please note this tool should always be sent with a Service Request Form and not in isolation.

What happens next

If the concerns are mostly in the sometimes and mostly then the referrals needs to be sent to the Children and Families Hub where it will be reviewed and decision made in regards who or which agency that will complete the GCP2

How is this going to be monitored

A screening tool needs to be completed within 72 hours of it being started. The reason for this is that the screening tool just like the GCP2 works on the premise that the assessment if for a specific period of time and responses or action taken soon after.

When a screening tool is completed it needs to be stored in the child's file and outcome of the screening recorded on it.