

Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2) in Blackburn with Darwen

The **Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2)** is the agreed tool used in Blackburn with Darwen to support the **assessment of neglect** and to understand a child's lived experience of care. Blackburn with Darwen was an early **pilot area in 2015**, and GCP2 is now fully embedded within assessment, planning and multi-agency safeguarding processes

GCP2 is a **structured, strengths-based tool** that supports professionals to:

- Assess the quality of care across key domains
- Identify strengths and areas of concern
- Evidence neglect clearly and consistently
- Measure change over time
- Work collaboratively with families to support improvement

It is used **with families**, supports professional judgement, and promotes transparency.

The use of GCP2 in Blackburn with Darwen is strongly supported by **senior leaders across agencies** and is a **priority area for the Blackburn with Darwen Children's Safeguarding Partnership**. Senior leadership buy-in ensures:

- GCP2 is the agreed approach where neglect is a concern
- Consistent expectations across agencies
- Regular oversight through audits and progress reporting

This commitment ensures GCP2 is embedded, not optional.

While social workers lead on completing GCP2 as part of statutory assessments, **effective use relies on multi-agency contribution**. Partners such as health, education, early help, police and the voluntary sector contribute evidence and observations linked to the GCP2 domains. It is particularly helpful for partner agencies to use the tool when making referrals into Children's Social Care.

GCP2 supports a **shared understanding and common language** when discussing neglect.

To ensure effective and consistent use:

- GCP2 is clearly identified in the local **Neglect Strategy**
- Embedded in **Liquidlogic** for recording and reporting
- Expected to be used **at all points on the continuum** where neglect is identified
- Priorities from GCP2 directly inform plans and are reviewed regularly
- Supported by a rolling **multi-agency training programme**

GCP2 is viewed as part of the assessment process, not an additional task

Using GCP2 across the partnership:

- Improves consistency in assessment and decision-making
- Strengthens multi-agency communication
- Helps families understand concerns and expectations
- Provides clearer evidence of risk, need and progress
- Supports earlier and more effective intervention

In Blackburn with Darwen:

- Neglect is everyone's responsibility
- GCP2 provides a fair, evidence-based way to assess care
- All agencies contribute to understanding the child's lived experience
- Children's welfare remains central to all decision-making