

NEGLECT SCREENING TOOL

Definition of Neglect

Neglect is '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.' (Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018)

Purpose of Screening Tool

Is to equip frontline practitioners to:

- identify signs of neglect at an early stage,
- alert the need for further action
- Identify which agency/organisation/practitioner will progress further assessment/intervention as needed.

Child Protection / Safeguarding Statement

This screening tool does not replace St. Helen's 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 Pre-EHAT, Early Help Assessment Tool (EHAT), Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE1) 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.

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			
Category; Environmental factors			
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			

Category; Health/physical care	Very concerned		Not concerned
Frequent attendance at A&E and/or hospital admission			
Poor weight gain/nutrition			
Untreated or persistent head lice or other infestation			
Refusing help/services			
Poor personal hygiene of child			
Substance abuse of child/adult/household member			
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			
Dental hygiene poor/not registered with a dentist			
Category; Parenting			
Poor inappropriate family support			
Inappropriate language/poor boundaries for own behaviour			
Fails to give child appropriate boundaries for behaviour			
Substance abuse			
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			

Category; Education	Very concerned	Sometimes	Not concerned
Non-attendance at school/nursery			
Developmental delay			
Inadequately prepared for nursery/school/college			
Lack of parental/carer engagement with nursery/school/college			
Withdrawn/lethargic			
Unexplained extremes of behaviour			
Category: Feeding and eating			
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			

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 the MASH Team, 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.