**Multi Agency Neglect Screening Tool**

**When should I use this tool?**

This screening tool is intended for front line practitioners within all partner agencies as a means to quickly identify areas of concern which may indicate a child/young person is being neglected. The tool is designed to be applicable to all ages of children and should help you identify Neglect and associated factors across the age ranges. It is intended to complement existing tools and **DOES NOT REPLACE the Graded Care Profile**. If the Screening Tool indicates that a child or young person is experiencing neglect, a [Graded Care Profile](https://www.rbscb.org/professionals/useful-resources/) should be used to provide a more comprehensive assessment.

This screening tool will help you to:

* Identify signs of neglect at an early stage
* Highlight the need for further action
* Identify which agency/organisation/practitioner will progress further assessment/intervention as needed

**Child Protection/Safeguarding:** in cases where you are concerned that a child/young person has been or is at risk of immediate harm follow the [Greater Manchester Safeguarding Procedures](http://greatermanchesterscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/contents.html#managing_cases) (TriX). **If you are worried a child is at immediate risk of significant harm, call** **0300 303 0440**

**Do I need to complete all sections?**

Only complete the sections where you can provide specific evidence to explain why you have concerns. **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 are unsure about completing the assessment seek appropriate help within your organisation.

**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 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 2015)

**Signs of Neglect**

The screening tool lists possible signs of Neglect. The list is not exhaustive but may include:

* Appearing unkempt
* Lack of supervision
* Failure to attend health appointments
* Hungry at school

**Assessing Neglect**

Unlike other forms of abuse the identification of neglect often relies on the build-up of a picture over time rather than a single incident. Assessments of neglect need to be holistic, picking up on issues over time, and viewing concerns as a whole; rather than looking at specific incidents. Practitioners must consider historical information and be mindful that past behaviour is often the best predictor of future behaviour.

**Identifying Details**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name  |  | Next of Kin |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| Date of Birth or EDD |  | Contact Tel No.  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| Address |  |

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

Does the child have any additional needs? YES/NO

If yes, please give details –

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**Name of practitioner / agency** **Date of completion**

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| **Categories**  | **Very Concerned** | **Sometimes Concerned** | **Not Concerned** |
| **Category: Emotional / Behaviour** |
| 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  |  |  |  |
| Lack on online supervision, exposed to inappropriate films, websites, games or materials |  |  |  |
| Shows reluctant 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  |  |  |  |
| Category: Health / Physical Care |
| 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 members  |  |  |  |
| Continuously failing appointments, not addressing health needs/treatments |  |  |  |
| Inappropriately dressed for time of year, clothes are not clean or do not fit |  |  |  |
| Not registered with a GP  |  |  |  |
| 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 cooperating, to allay professional concern and ultimately to diffuse professionals interventions |  |  |  |
| Aggressive or threatening behaviour towards professionals  |  |  |  |
| Leaving children with inappropriate carers / babysitters |  |  |  |
| Lives from day to day |  |  |  |
| Unrealistic expectations of child |  |  |  |
| Category: Education  |  |  |  |
| Non-attendance at school / nursery  |  |  |  |
| Development 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 |  |  |  |

**Evidence**

The boxes below are for you to record any strengths or concerns

Food and Eating Habits Yes No Not Sure

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Health and Physical Care Yes No Not Sure

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Parenting Yes No Not Sure

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Emotional and Behaviour Yes No Not Sure

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Environmental Factors Yes No Not Sure

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Educational Needs Yes No Not Sure

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| Can you provide the additional services needed? | Yes |  | No |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Have you identified actions? | 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 an assessment using the Graded Care Profile help | Yes |  | No |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| If you answered ‘Yes’ to the previous question, who will do this assessment? |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| I will |  | Another practitioner will |  |  |  |  |