Neglect – link to the <u>HSCP Neglect Hub</u> for the Neglect Strategy 2021/24 and Practice Guidance



To be used at Team Meetings – 7 MINUTE BRIEFING

What is Neglect?

Neglect of a child is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs. The repetition of this behaviour causes incremental damage, and there is a risk that neglected children may later on become a neglecting parent and the cycle of neglect begins.

Types of Neglect

- Physical Basic needs such as food and clothing not met, or the child is not appropriately supervised or kept safe from harm.
- **Emotional** Failure to provide nurture and stimulation. This also includes a parent humiliating, ignoring or isolating a child.
- Educational A parent not ensuring the child is given an education.
- Medical A child is not given appropriate healthcare; including ignoring or refusing appointments; eating disorders including hoarding/stealing food (see Procedure 5.1.24 Medical Neglect Policy)

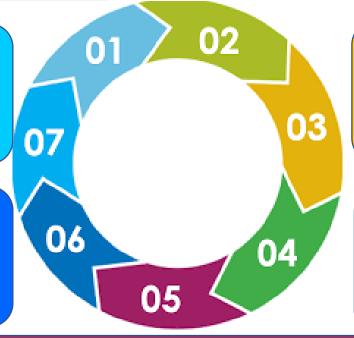
Record Keeping

When documenting concerns around neglect avoid subjective statements, be factual and use evidence to support professional judgements. Be clear on what information is written on the child/adults record. If you feel a referral to children services is required for concerns around long term neglect a GCP will need to be completed. Discuss with your safeguarding lead for further support and case management.

Your Assessment = The GCP

In Hertfordshire we use the <u>Graded Care Profile</u> (GCP) tool to assess neglect and identify strengths and difficulties across a number of child development areas. The Graded Care Profile gives a consistent approach to working with families where there's neglect. Ideally completed in partnership with families, however can be used as a table top exercise if required.

Please access GCP training before using the toolkit.



The Effects

Neglect can have both long and short term effects. These can include;

- Problems with brain development
- A delay in meeting developmental milestones
- Increased risk of mental health problems
- Increased risk taking behaviours e.g. running away from home or taking drugs.
- Relationship difficulties
- Neglectful parenting of their own children

Who is at Risk? Any child can suffer neglect.

Children and young people are at greater risk if they;

- Are born prematurely
- Have a disability
- Have complex health needs
- Are in care
- Are seeking Asylum
- Living in a household where the toxic trio is present- drugs/alcohol, domestic abuse, mental health

Both nationally and locally, neglect is the biggest category for Child Protection Plans

Signs of Neglect

Having one sign of neglect does not necessarily indicate neglect, however multiple signs over a long period of time can be an indicator. Signs may include;

- Poor hygiene and appearance
- Health and development problems
- Changes in behaviour
- Underweight/overweight and failure to thrive
- Disguised compliance