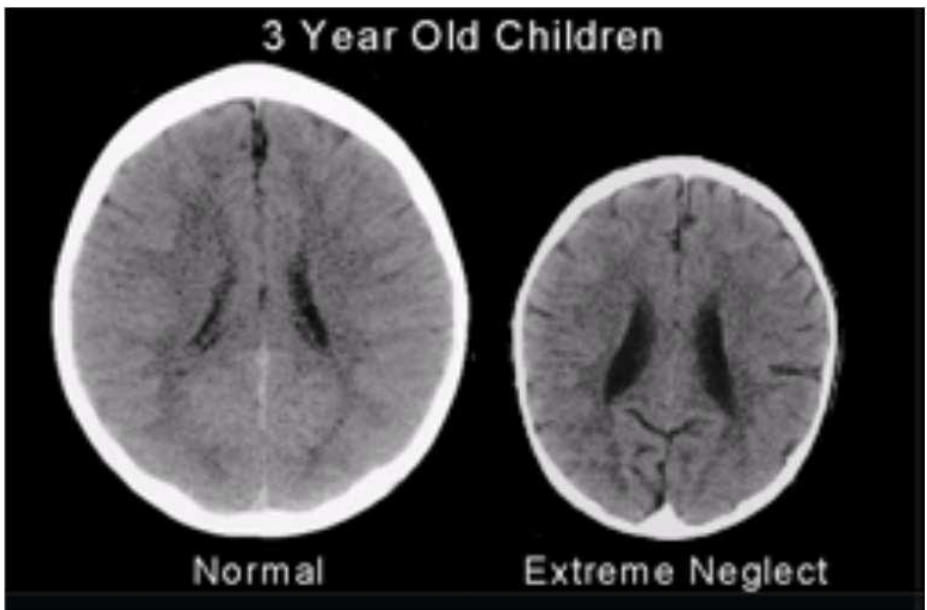




The Graded Care Profile



A TOOL TO ASSIST PRACTITIONERS AND FAMILIES IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE TO IDENTIFY AND ASSESS NEGLECT

NEGLECT

Why is the neglect of children so important:

- It is present in 70% of all child protection plans in Cambridgeshire
- It is present as a theme in Serious Case Reviews
- It leads to major organic damage including the severe shrinkage of a child's brain
- It reduces the capacity of the child to develop and grow
- It leaves children open to sexual and physical abuse, vulnerable to longer term exploitation
- In adulthood it is linked to criminal and anti-social behaviour, poor ability to manage successful relationships, domestic abuse and mental ill health

EFFECTIVELY IDENTIFYING NEGLECT IS NOT EASY. OFTEN IT IS PRESENT IN ONLY ONE ASPECT OF THE CARE OF AN OTHERWISE CARED FOR CHILD. LINKED TO POVERTY, IT CAN BE PRESENT IN AFFLUENT FAMILIES.

The Graded Care Profile equips professionals to work with families in identifying the presence and nature of neglect within a family.

WHAT IS NEGLECT?

The 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. Working Together 2015.

WHAT IS THE GRADED CARE PROFILE?

The Graded Care Profile (GCP) scale was developed as a practical tool to give an objective measure of the care of children across all their areas of need, providing an overview of all aspects of their care. This is important because the ill effect of bad care in one area may be offset by good care in another area. It is based on psychologist Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs.

The tool allows practitioners to explore four areas, or “domains” of care – physical care, safety, love and esteem – and to judge the parenting, which they observe against a set of simple criteria. It can be employed by practitioners from any agency involved in child welfare. It is designed to be used with the family and give a common language and a common frame of reference for professionals and service users alike.

HOW SHOULD I USE IT?

- You will only get a complete picture of a child’s care if you undertake the whole tool. However, where risk is low and needs are specific it may be proportionate to use the sections of the tool you know to be relevant.
- Where you are concerned that the risk of harm to a child from Neglect may be high you need to complete the whole tool.
- If many or all the essential needs are unmet then a referral to Children Social Care must be made

WHEN SHOULD I USE THE GRADED CARE PROFILE?

The GCP is designed to be used by any professional in any agency working with a family where there is a concern about the care of the children. It is relevant to Health Professionals, Early Help, Education, Think Family and Children Social Care.

The GCP is a ‘part’ of the assessment process and can be used alongside the Early Help Assessment. GCP can be used either as a full document or the parts which are relevant to the family and the assessment.

THE GRADED CARE PROFILE WILL:

- Help professionals measure the quality of care being given to a child or young person
- Give the family and professionals a shared language to discuss neglect
- Identify as an assessment tool areas that are putting a child at risk of harm
- Identify strengths, weaknesses and what needs to change
- Support professionals in identifying what parents can do better, therefore it will be easier for the professional working with the family to get them the right support to improve the life of the child
- Build up evidence about the risk of harm and need of a child to support referrals and legal processes.

If you think a child is at risk of harm, contact

Peterborough Children Social Care	01733 864170
Cambridgeshire Children Social Care	0345 0451362
Out of Hours (Emergency Duty Team)	01733 234724

Cambridgeshire Constabulary	101 or in emergencies 999
NSPCC	0808 800 5000



**Cambridgeshire and Peterborough
Safeguarding Children Board**
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