



Child Neglect – Practitioner Slides

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Recognising the signs of Neglect



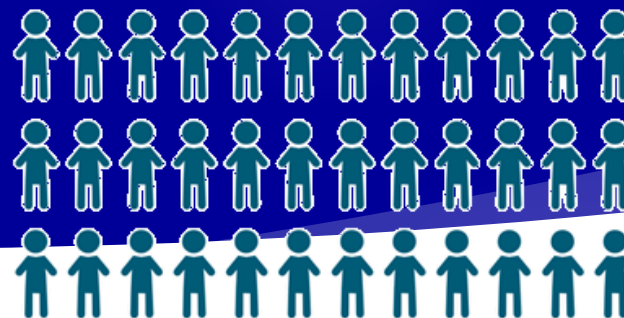
EVERY
CHILD
HAS THE
RIGHT TO FEEL
SAFE
AND **LOVED**

Key Facts about Neglect

Over 25,820 children were identified as needing protection from neglect last year

Neglect is the most common reason for taking child protection action

The NSPCC's helpline responded to over 19,900 contacts about neglect during 2017-2018





HM Government

Working together to safeguard children

A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children



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

- 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 and 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); or
 - ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment
- It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs

Poor Appearance and Hygiene

▶ Neglected Children & Young People may appear:

- to be smelly or dirty
- have unwashed clothes
- have inadequate clothing, e.g. not having a winter coat
- seem hungry or turn up to school without having breakfast or any lunch money
- Repeat and frequent catching on lice
- have frequent and untreated nappy rash in infants.



Signs of Emotional Neglect

- Frightened & Unhappy,
 - Tearful
 - Anxious,
 - Low self-esteem
 - Withdrawn,
 - Isolated,
 - Fear intimacy and dependence
-
- Infants: fractious, fretful, clinging, hard to soothe
 - Young children: attention seeking; exaggerated affect; poor confidence and concentration; jealous; show off; go to far
 - Teens: immature, impulsive; need to be noticed leads to trouble at school and in community
 - Neglectful parents feel angry and helpless: reject the child; to grandparents, care or gangs



Health Development Problems



They may have:

- untreated injuries, medical and dental issues
- repeated accidental injuries caused by lack of supervision
- recurring illnesses or infections
- not been given appropriate medicines
- missed medical appointments such as vaccinations
- poor muscle tone or prominent joints
- skin sores, rashes, flea bites, scabies or ringworm
- thin or swollen tummy
- anaemia
- tiredness
- faltering weight or growth and not reaching developmental milestones (known as failure to thrive)
- poor language, communication or social skills.



Housing and Family Issues

They may be:

- living in an unsuitable home environment for example dog mess being left or not having any heating
- left alone for a long time
- taking on the role of carer for other family members.



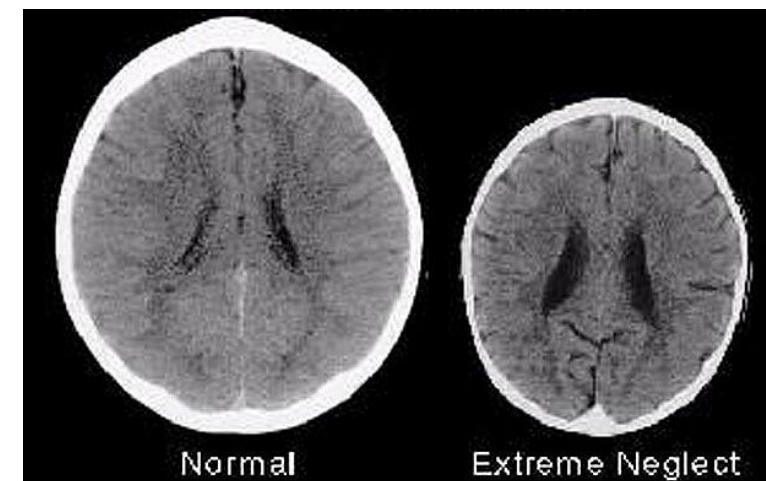
Effects on brain development

The first years of a child's life have a big impact on how their brain develops. That is why neglect can be so damaging – a child's experiences can change their thought processes and neural pathways.

If a baby is malnourished, neural cells can become weak or damaged and this can cause lowered brain function.

If a child has a poor relationship, attachment or little interaction with a parent then it can change how their brain develops emotional and verbal pathways.

Neglect can severely alter the way a child's brain works. This can lead to an increased risk of depression in later life as well as dissociative disorders and memory impairments. Changes to the brain caused by neglect have also been linked to panic disorder, posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).



([Child Welfare Information Gateway, 2009](#))

Effects on relationships and attachment

A parent or carer's behaviour has a big impact on a child. It can also affect the relationship between parent and child.

This relationship, or bond, between a child and their primary caregiver - usually mum or dad but sometimes another family member or carer - is described by attachment theory.

When a child is neglected they don't usually have a good relationship or bond with their parent. Psychologists would describe this as a poor attachment.

Poor attachment can significantly affect the relationships that people have throughout their lives, including how they interact with their own children. Early intervention can change attachment patterns, reducing harm to a child and helping them to form positive attachments in adulthood.



(Howe, 2011)

NEGLECT: So much more than just a grubby child

In February 2016, Peterborough & Cambridgeshire Local Safeguarding Boards hosted a joint conference to raise awareness of Neglect.

All presentations from the event are available to view on the website

http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/lscb/info/14/lscb_multi-agency_training/35/lscb_conferences_and_learning_events/3

Presentations to note are;

Dr Emilia Wawrzkowicz – More than just a grubby child

Patrick Ayre – Four Aspects of Neglect

Dr Zeyn Green-Thompson – Parental Mental Health & Neglect

Sarah Hamilton & Dr Emilia – Avoidable Impairment

Safeguarding Board Website

EVERY CHILD HAS THE RIGHT TO FEEL

Neglect

Neglect is the ongoing failure to meet a child's basic needs and is the most common form of child abuse. A child may be left hungry or dirty, without adequate clothing, shelter, supervision, medical or health care. A child may be put in danger or not protected from physical or emotional harm. They may not get the love, care and attention they need from their parents. A child who's neglected will often suffer from other abuse as well. Neglect is dangerous and can cause serious, long-term damage – even death. – www.nspcc.org.uk

Child Neglect is a complex and challenging area of work for safeguarding practitioners. Research and learning from Serious Case Reviews tell us that neglect is multi-faceted and requires a robust multi-agency response in order that we tackle it effectively.

On this page you'll find resources and tools which support effective practice in safeguarding.

Tools for assessing Neglect

- Graded Care Profile (Cambridgeshire Only)
- Quality of Care Tool (Peterborough only)

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board Neglect Strategy

SCB Leaflets and Resources

Resource Packs

- Children's Safeguarding Partnership Tool Box
- Safeguarding Toolbox

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough LSCB Leaflets

- What is the Safeguarding Children Board?
- Identifying Child Abuse: And what you should do
- Safeguarding Children from Neglect: A Guide for Professionals
- Safeguarding Children from Neglect: A Guide for Parents

<http://www.safeguardingcambpeterborough.org.uk/children-board/professionals/child-neglect/>

Child Neglect in the headlines

Social workers in Baby P borough failed to save children from 'chronic neglect', report finds

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/baby-p/9232376/Social-workers-in-Baby-P-borough-failed-to-save-children-from-chronic-neglect-report-finds.html>



Disgusting squalor inside house where two young children were neglected so badly they looked like Oliver Twist urchins when they were rescued and drugs were left lying around in their reach

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3015013/Disgusting-squalor-inside-house-two-young-children-neglected-badly-looked-like-Oliver-Twist-urchins-rescued-drugs-left-lying-reach.html>

www.safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk copyright ©



Child Neglect in the headlines



Mum jailed for child neglect after seriously ill son, 4, was found living in home of 'absolute squalor' crammed with TWENTY uncaged ferrets and FOURTEEN dogs

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2596730/Mum-jailed-child-neglect-seriously-ill-son-4-living-home-absolute-squalor-crammed-TWENTY-uncaged-ferrets-FOURTEEN-dogs.html>

Evil aunt jailed for 'worst case of child cruelty' on tragic seven-year-old Shanay Walker

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/582601/Shanay-Walker-Evil-aunt-jailed-for-worst-case-of-child-cruelty>



Multi-Agency Neglect Training Available

- ▶ An Introduction to Neglect (level 1)

This training is aimed at people who do not work with children on a one to one basis e.g. admin staff, receptionists or those who work with the adults in families

- ▶ Understanding the Impact of Neglect (level 2)

This training is aimed at professionals who work on a one to one basis with children. Please access this course, you do not need to attend level 1 training.

- ▶ <http://www.safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk/availabletraining/>

Neglect Strategy

- www.safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Neglect-Strategy-2018-20.pdf



Neglect Assessment Tools

- ▶ For Peterborough it's the **Quality of Care Tool (QoC)**
- ▶ For Cambridgeshire it's the **Graded Care Profile (GCP)**
- ▶ Training for either tool found at <http://www.safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk/availabletraining/>

Graded Care Profile

- ▶ Based on Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs
- ▶ Identifies four areas of care: Physical, Safety, Responsiveness and Esteem - these are then broken down into sub-areas
- ▶ LSCB supports the use of the GCP for **assessing Neglect**
- ▶ Informs the child protection referral process/improves referrals
- ▶ Identifies needs of each individual child within a family
- ▶ Can be used to 'work with' and to 'engage' the family
- ▶ Objective **Assessment Tool**
- ▶ Can be used as a 'Targeted' Action Plan'
- ▶ Evaluate changes for children
- ▶ Can be used as supportive evidence
- ▶ Reflects the Cambridgeshire Threshold Document levels
- ▶ For use in Cambridgeshire but **not the Peterborough area**


A Area of Physical Care		NUTRITION NUTRITION				
Sub-areas	1 All Needs Met	2 Essential Needs Met	3 Some Essential Needs Unmet	4 Many Essential Needs Unmet	5 Most/all Essential Needs Unmet	
1) Nutrition						
A. Quality	Provides excellent quality and healthy food and drink <input type="checkbox"/>	Provides reasonable quality and healthy food and drink. <input type="checkbox"/>	Provides reasonable quality healthy food but inconsistently. <input type="checkbox"/>	Provides poor quality food or an unhealthy diet through lack of awareness or effort. Improves when prompted. <input type="checkbox"/>	Does not consider the health or quality of diet. When prompted, very little improvement. <input type="checkbox"/>	
B. Quantity	Enough food all of the time. <input type="checkbox"/>	Enough food nearly all the time. <input type="checkbox"/>	Enough food most of the time. <input type="checkbox"/>	Sometimes not enough food. <input type="checkbox"/>	Not enough food most of the time. <input type="checkbox"/>	
C. Preparation	Always carefully prepared or cooked for the child. <input type="checkbox"/>	Well prepared and usually taking account of the child's needs. <input type="checkbox"/>	Prepared mainly to meet the parent's needs. The child's needs sometimes accommodated. <input type="checkbox"/>	Often little preparation. The child's needs and tastes are not accommodated or the child inappropriately prepares their own meal. <input type="checkbox"/>	Hardly ever any preparation. Child has on snacks/cereals/junk food and is expected to prepare their own food. <input type="checkbox"/>	
D. Organisation	Meals organised and well timed. Family sitting together to eat food. <input type="checkbox"/>	Well organised, often eating together and regular timing of meals. <input type="checkbox"/>	Organised sometimes, irregular timing, eating may be an issue. <input type="checkbox"/>	Not well organised, no clear meal times. <input type="checkbox"/>	Chaotic, eat when and whatever food is there. <input type="checkbox"/>	

www.safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk/children-board/professionals/child-neglect/graded-care-profile/

Quality of Care Tool

- ▶ Identifies areas of care and sub-areas
- ▶ LSCB supports the use of the QofC Tool for **assessing Neglect**
- ▶ Informs the child protection referral process/improves referrals
- ▶ Identifies needs of each individual child within a family
- ▶ Can be used to 'work with' and to 'engage' the family
- ▶ Objective **Assessment Tool**
- ▶ Can be used as a 'Targeted' Action Plan'
- ▶ Evaluate changes for children
- ▶ Can be used as supportive evidence
- ▶ For use in the **Peterborough area only**
- ▶ www.safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk/children-board/professionals/child-neglect/quality-of-care-tool-2/

Quality of Care Tool



The Quality of Care Tool (QoC.)

Assessing the quality of parental care for children.

Acknowledgements
The Quality of care Tool is a structured judgment tool written and developed for Hounslow by Jane Woodcock

Child or young person's name		Name/Role of Person completing this Tool/Assessment	
DOB		Position	
Name of main Carers		Agency & Contact Details	
Has Early Help been accessed? Y/N		Date of completion of QoC Tool	
Is there a current relevant Early Help assessment in place? Y/N		Date of Review	

Quality of Care Tool

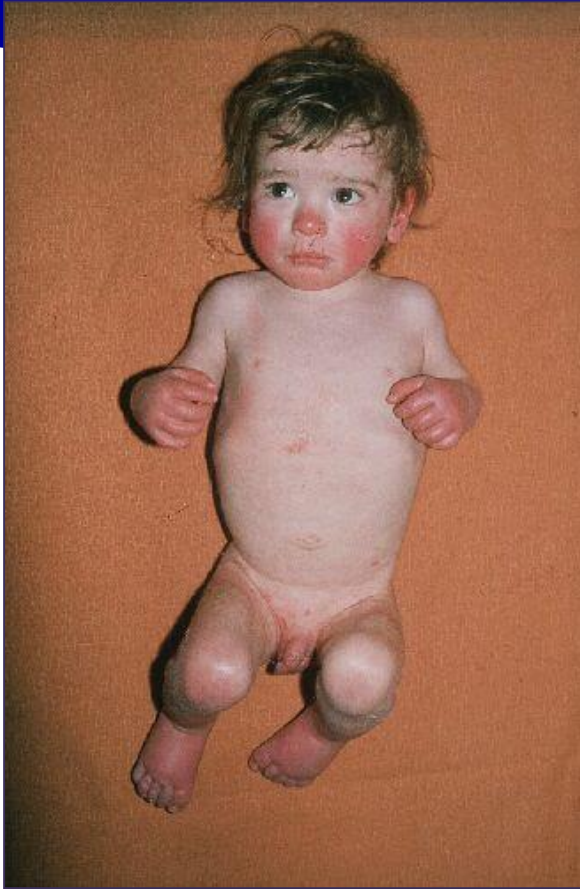
Area of Care : Indicate overall score for each area of care

1 Child focused care giving.	2 Adult focused care giving.	3 Child's needs secondary to adults.	4 Child's needs not considered.
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Q of C tool RISK CATEGORIES

Physical Care Food	1 Child focused care giving.	Child is provided with appropriate quantity of food and drink, appropriate to their age and stage of development. Meals are organised and there is a routine which includes the family sometimes eating together. Children's special dietary requirements are always met. Carer understands importance of foods.
	2 Adult focused care giving.	Child is provided with reasonable quality of food and drink and seems to receive an adequate quantity for their needs, but there is a lack of consistency in preparation and routine. Children's special dietary requirements are inconsistently met. Carer understands the importance of appropriate food and routine but sometimes their personal circumstances impact on ability to provide.
	3 Child's needs secondary to adults.	Child receives low quality food and drink, often not appropriate to their age and stage of development and there is a lack of preparation or routine. Child appears hungry. Children's special dietary requirements are rarely met. The carer is indifferent to the importance of appropriate food for the child.
	4 Child's needs not considered.	Child does not receive an adequate quantity of food and is observed to be hungry. The food provided is of a consistently low quality with a predominance of sugar, sweets, crisps and chips etc. Children's special dietary requirements are never met and there is a lack of routine in preparation and times when food is available. Carer hostile to advice about appropriate food and drink and the need for a routine.
Comments and actions		Proposal for support/change
Changes at first review-		Further action-
Physical Care Quality of housing	1 Child focused care giving.	The accommodation has all essential amenities such as heating, shower, cooking facilities, adequate beds and bedding and a toilet and is in a reasonable state of repair and decoration. Carer understands the importance of the home conditions to child's well-being.
	2 Adult focused care giving.	The accommodation has some essential amenities, but is in need of decoration and requires repair. Carers are aware of this, and have taken steps to address these issues. The accommodation is reasonably clean, but may be damp, but the carer addresses this.

What can be achieved with early intervention



Before, suffering chronic neglect

After 6 months in foster care

GOV. UK Training Resources



<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/training-resources-on-childhood-neglect-exercises-and-guidance>

A screenshot of the GOV.UK website. The page title is 'Training resources on childhood neglect: exercises and guidance'. Below the title, it says 'Exercises and guidance documents for training multi-agency groups on identifying and preventing child neglect.' The page is published on 12 June 2012 and is from the Department for Education. There are three document links listed under the 'Documents' section: 'E: warm up' (PDF, 41.5KB, 1 page), 'G: warm up' (PDF, 42.8KB, 2 pages), and 'E1: understanding neglect' (PDF, 57.2KB, 8 pages). A 'Related content' section on the right lists several other resources, including 'Training resources on childhood neglect: handouts', 'Training resources on childhood neglect: presentations and notes', 'Childhood neglect: improving outcome guidance for trainers', 'Training resources on childhood neglect: family case studies', 'Childhood neglect: improving outcome the framework', and a collection titled 'Childhood neglect: training resource'. The GOV.UK logo and navigation menu are visible at the top of the page.

References



- Key facts on Neglect are taken from the [NSPCC website](#)
- Information on Child Brain Development ([Child Welfare Information Gateway, 2009](#))
- Inform on Attachments and Relationships taken from ([Howe, 2011](#))
<https://he.palgrave.com/page/detail/attachment-across-the-lifecycle-david-howe/?sf1=barcode&st1=9780230293595>
- Further information can be found on the Action for Children website
<https://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/what-we-do/policy-and-research/child-neglect-early/>

NSPCC

