



Safer Seven

On: Child Neglect



1. What is neglect?

Neglect is the ongoing failure to meet a child's basic needs. Neglect takes many forms.

Neglected children may be left hungry or dirty, without adequate clothing, shelter, supervision, medical or health care.

They 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 or carers.

2. Why does it matter?

Neglect has harmful consequences in both the short and long term. It can be life threatening and can result in poor

physical, emotional, and mental health - it can severely alter the way a child's brain develops, damage their capacity

to form positive relationships and increase vulnerability to other forms of abuse such as CSE.

3. How does it happen?

- Neglect happens when parents or carers cannot or will not meet a child's needs.
- Sometimes this is because they do not have the skills or support needed, and sometimes it is due to other problems such as mental health issues, domestic abuse or drug and alcohol problems.
- Focus on what is happening, and not why it is happening.
- The needs, safety, and welfare of the child must always be the priority.

4. Spotting the signs

It is not always easy to identify neglect but the longer a child is living in a neglectful environment, the greater the damage and likelihood of other abuse will be.

The first step for practitioners is identifying those children at risk and being able to express the evidence base for this.

Early intervention can prevent the long term consequences of neglect.

5. Remember!

- Dudley have invested in the NSPCC's Graded Care Profile 2 (which is also known as GCP2) is an evidence-based assessment tool that must be completed when neglect is suspected.
- Understand roles and thresholds; use guidance, resources, and tools available.
- Clearly articulate and share your concerns. Be prepared to challenge and to escalate if necessary.

6. Questions to consider:

- Has a GCP2 being completed?
- Is the child at risk of significant harm? (If yes, contact the MASH)
- What is daily life like for the child?
- What is the impact on the child?
- How have concerns been raised with the family?
- How has information been shared?
- What is the plan and what difference is it making?
- Are there any signs of disguised compliance?

7. Further information: Undertake the following courses :

- Understanding Child Abuse and Neglect
- Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2)
- Child Neglect and Adolescent Neglect.

Visit our Learning Zone to see our selection of briefings and more [HERE](#)