

DSPP Neglect Sub Group

Position Statement: Partnership response to Was Not Brought/Did Not Attend

To outline the DSPP expectation in relation to Was Not Brought (WNB) for children and Did Not Attend (DNA) for adults and recognition as a potential indicator of neglect/self-neglect.

Reviews undertaken in Dudley have reflected that a lack of engagement with professional services is often not considered to be an indicator of neglect/self-neglect. Professionals need greater curiosity about cancelled and rearranged appointments, multiple instances of WNB/DNA of course require an even greater degree of professional curiosity and heightened consideration.

The DSPP Neglect Sub Group gathered responses from partner agencies regarding their own agencies policy in relation to WNB/DNA. Good practice was noted by a number of partners, and whilst a policy is not necessary for all agencies (e.g. education who have statutory duties regarding attendance), agencies should be aware of and ensure professionals recognise the link between missed appointments and potential safeguarding concerns.

Recording children and young people as WNB instead of DNA encourages practitioners to think about the situation from the child's perspective and potentially take action to safeguard them.

Consider any potential risk to the adult non-attendance at appointments might pose. Is there any concern relating to domestic abuse or does the adult have care and support needs and could their attendance be impeded by a family member/carer. In these cases the adult should still be recorded as DNA, however practitioners should record their concerns.

Consider what non-attendance might mean to the individuals care and take appropriate action.

- Check contact details are correct
- Contact the family/carer
- Check with school, education settings or other services known to be involved
- Contact GP or health services
- Report concerns to social care if there is a risk of harm

Anytime a child, young person or vulnerable adult is not seen at an appointment is a potential opportunity to safeguard them and ensure their needs are being met.

It is recommended that:

- All agencies have a WNB/DNA policy, or follow relevant statutory guidance

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- Information on recognising indicators of neglect is shared across the partnership workforce

Information and resources for raising further awareness:

- DSPP Learning Zone for relevant Safer7s e.g. Child Neglect, Affluent Neglect, Professional Curiosity, Disguised Compliance, Information Sharing
<https://dudleysafeguarding.org.uk/learning-zone/safer7s/>
- A range of training is also available via the DSPP Learning Zone
<https://dudleysafeguarding.event-booking.org/>
- Rethink 'Did Not Attend' video, Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Board
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dAdNL6d4lpk&t=16s>
- Was Not Brought, a short film by Inclusion Gloucestershire, about the difficulties faced by adults who need assistance to access healthcare
<https://www.inclusiongloucestershire.co.uk/health-films/>