

**Who should use this tool:** All public-facing teams with a responsibility for safeguarding who have ‘time limited’ contact with children and/or their parents or do not work with families in their home environment and therefore are unable to complete a Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2). This includes (but is not limited to) Childminders, Nursery Workers, School staff, Housing Officers, Mental Health Practitioners and Adults’ Services practitioners.

**When should the Neglect Screening Tool be used:** Whenever there are concerns about the quality of care being provided to a child or children, and where practitioners have limited time to work directly with families to assess and respond to this. The Neglect Screening Tool should help practitioners to pinpoint and evidence their concerns.

This tool supports practitioners who are not able to complete a GCP2, to identify signs of neglect at an early stage and to helps them to discuss concerns with their manager or Safeguarding Lead, in order to decide the next appropriate steps. **Practitioners who spend more time over several visits with families should use the Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2), a more in-depth assessment tool.** [**See the SSCP website for more information about GCP2**](https://surreyscp.org.uk/neglect-tools/)**.**

**Completing the tool:** This form should be completed in conjunction with the[**Continuum of Support**](https://surreyscb.procedures.org.uk/assets/clients/2/Images/Continnium%20of%20Need%20Matrix.pdf)  and [**Surrey’s Neglect Strategy 2024-2026**](https://surreyscp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Neglect-Strategy-2024-2026.pdf). On completion of the tool, if you feel that the child or family require additional support, please complete a Request for Support form and send to the Children’s Single Point of Access (C-SPA) **CSPA@surreycc.gov.uk**. If you are unsure if the concerns warrant a [**Request for Support**](https://surreyscp.org.uk/documents/surrey-childrens-services-request-for-support-form/) and require further professional advice, please contact the CSPA Child Protection Consultation line on 0300 470 9100 and select option 3.

If you think the child is in immediate danger you should call 999. If your query or request for support is for an adult (18 years and over) please contact [**Adult Social Care**](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/adults/care-and-support/contact).

**What is Neglect?**

As defined in [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65cb4349a7ded0000c79e4e1/Working_together_to_safeguard_children_2023_-_statutory_guidance.pdf) Neglect is:

The persistent 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)
• ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment
• provide suitable education

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child’s basic emotional needs.

**Please note, you should only complete the sections of this tool where you can evidence what you’ve seen and/or heard**

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| **Name and Role of person completing form:** |  |
| **Email address:** |  |
| **Name of child/family:** |  |
| **Date form completed:** |  |

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| **Neglect Type and associated concerns** | **Detail of your concerns****Please describe what you have seen and why you are concerned. Include voice of child where possible.** | **What have you/the family/other organisations done to try address the concerns to date?** **Include any discussion with colleagues and/or partners, if this has taken place.** |
| **Educational Neglect*** Child is frequently absent from school or late and parents/carers fails to make sure their child attends school
* The child’s general development is not what you would expect for a child of their age and/or you have concerns about developmental delays/disabilities
* The child is not always collected on time from school or nursery
* Parent/carer fails to provide a stimulating environment or show an interest in their child’s education at school or early education.
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| **Emotional Neglect*** Parent / carer is nonresponsive to baby crying; having a negative view/ perception of their child.
* Parent/carer is unresponsive to a child’s basic emotional needs. They may fail to interact or provide affection, undermining the child’s self-esteem and sense of identity
* Parents have poor mental health, there is domestic abuse and/or substance abuse within the household.
* The child is a young carer and/or taking on caring responsibilities.
* Child struggles to regulate their emotions and this impacts on their peer relationships, home life and education.
* May exhibit physical/verbal behaviours, appear withdrawn or attention seeking behaviours, regressive behaviours such as bed wetting
* Child displays anxious or self-harming behaviours.
* Parent is experiencing ante or post-natal depression, is not accessing support and it is impacting on the unborn baby/child.
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| **Medical Neglect*** Parent/carer not attending ante-natal appointments
* Child is not registered with a GP or Dentist
* Parent/carer not taking their child to health appointments or repeatedly cancelling health appointments
* Parents/carer not following advice given by health professionals; failing to give prescribed medication, inaccurately reporting signs and symptoms in their child
* Parent or carer does not seek medical attention in a timely manner. Chronic health conditions and or additional needs are not well managed (e.g. asthma).
* Repeat attendances to A&E
* Parent making regular inappropriate attendances to GP or health professionals.
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| **Nutritional Neglect*** Child does not have an adequate or balanced diet or is not of a healthy weight (excessively over or underweight)
* Parent not providing developmentally appropriate foods e.g. choking risk with solids, not provided with opportunity for independent feeding, juice or fizzy drinks in bottles given.
* Evidence child is stealing or hoarding food.
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| **Physical Neglect*** Crowded/cluttered home conditions and environment impact on child’s development; child unable to move freely and learn new skills i.e. crawling
* Home is unclean or unsanitary; animal faeces in home or garden.
* Concerns for the child’s personal hygiene and appearance, for example, child is dirty and smell, clothing and shoes are not appropriate for the weather and does not fit
* Child has poor dental hygiene, including decay and tooth removals.
* Child is not of the expected growth for age (within their own parameters)
* Appearance of bruising not consistent with child’s age/stage of development
* Domestic violence is a feature within the parents relationship or within the home where the child will be living
* Parents physical health/disability is impacting on ability to meet their child’s needs.
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| **Supervisory neglect*** There is a lack of parental boundaries for the child including online access.
* The child is left home alone or for extended periods of time, or with inappropriate carers, or without appropriate boundaries (for example, under-age sex or alcohol use) may not be applied.
* Parents are not always aware where their child is or who they are with.
* The child is in the care of parents/ carers who are intoxicated or violent.
* The child has un-monitored access to the internet and social media or age inappropriate films/television.
* Parent/carer not following safer sleep advice and guidance
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| **Are the parents/carers aware of your concerns? YES/NO****What are their views?** |

**Next steps (completed by those who have ongoing work with the family):**

**Please refer to the *Completing the tool* guidance on the first page of this document.**

**If you feel it would be useful please document any actions to be taken following completion of the Neglect Tool in the action plan below or add any identified actions to existing plans.**

**Action plan:**

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| Action to be taken | Person responsible | To be completed by: |
| *e.g. Complete a Request for Support form and send to CSPA along with the completed neglect tool.* | *DSL* | *8 August 2024* |
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**Reminder:**

* This checklist is a tool to consider possible areas of concerns; it is not a definitive list.
* The neglect tool does not replace your own organisations safeguarding policy and procedures in cases where you are concerned that a child/young person has been or is at risk of immediate harm.