Responding to Neglect in Surrey

Neglect is the most prevalent type of harm affecting around 10% of all children (Radford, L. et al (2011) Child abuse and neglect in the UK today) and the reason why most children in Surrey, and across the UK, are on child protection plans. To try and address this, Surrey are implementing tools across the partnership to support the assessment, interventions and response to concerns regarding neglect and the quality of parenting provided to children.

Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2)

The Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2) is an evidenced based tool that helps practitioners to work with parents and care givers, to measure and score the quality of the care they are providing, whilst keeping the child at the centre. The tool helps to identify parents' strengths as well as areas of care which require improvement. Although the GCP2 can support practitioners with collecting evidence to escalate their concerns to Surrey's Children's Single Point of Access (C-SPA), the main purpose of the tool is to identify neglectful care as early as possible and put in place the right support to improve outcomes for children.

GCP2 is licensed by the NSPCC and therefore in order to use the tool, practitioners must attend GCP2 training.

Who should use the GCP2? Anyone who works with children and who has access to work directly with their parents/care givers, and who has a concern about neglect/parenting. This includes (but not limited to) Health Visitors, Family Support Workers, Inclusion Officers, Social Workers, Home Link Workers, School Nurses and Designated Safeguarding Leads.

How is the GCP2 used? Once a concern is identified the practitioner works with the parent/s to complete the GP2 over a couple of visits. The GCP2 contains areas related to care and parenting, which the practitioner discusses with the parent, makes observations on and allocates scores based on a graded scale which has an associated RAG (Red, Amber and Green) rating. These scores are then used to develop an action plan which addresses the areas that received a poor score. After the implementation of this action plan, a GCP2 is repeated to measure the progress a parent/parents have made. The GCP2 can also be successfully used as a medium for facilitating conversations between young people and their parents and helping adolescents to understand the support that they are, or are not, receiving.

Where can I book GCP2 training? You can book training through the SSCP website.

Where can I find out more information about GCP2? More information about GCP2 can be found on the SSCP website or please visit the NSPCC website.
For more information, please contact the GCP2 Project Manager, Alex Dave,
alex.dave@surreycc.gov.uk

The Surrey Neglect Screening Tool

The Neglect Subgroup of the SSCP has also developed a briefer neglect screening tool. 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.

> **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, and therefore are unable to complete a GCP2. This includes (but is not limited to) Childminders, Nursery Workers, Housing Officers and Adults' Services practitioners.
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> **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.
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> After completing a Neglect Screening Tool, if the practitioner is concerned about the risk to a child, the Neglect Screening Tool should be attached to a Request for Support form and sent to the Children's Single Point of Access (C-SPA) CSPA@surreycc.gov.uk.
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> **Where can the Neglect Screening Tool be found?** On the SSCP website.