

Neglect Multi-Agency Audit (February 2025)

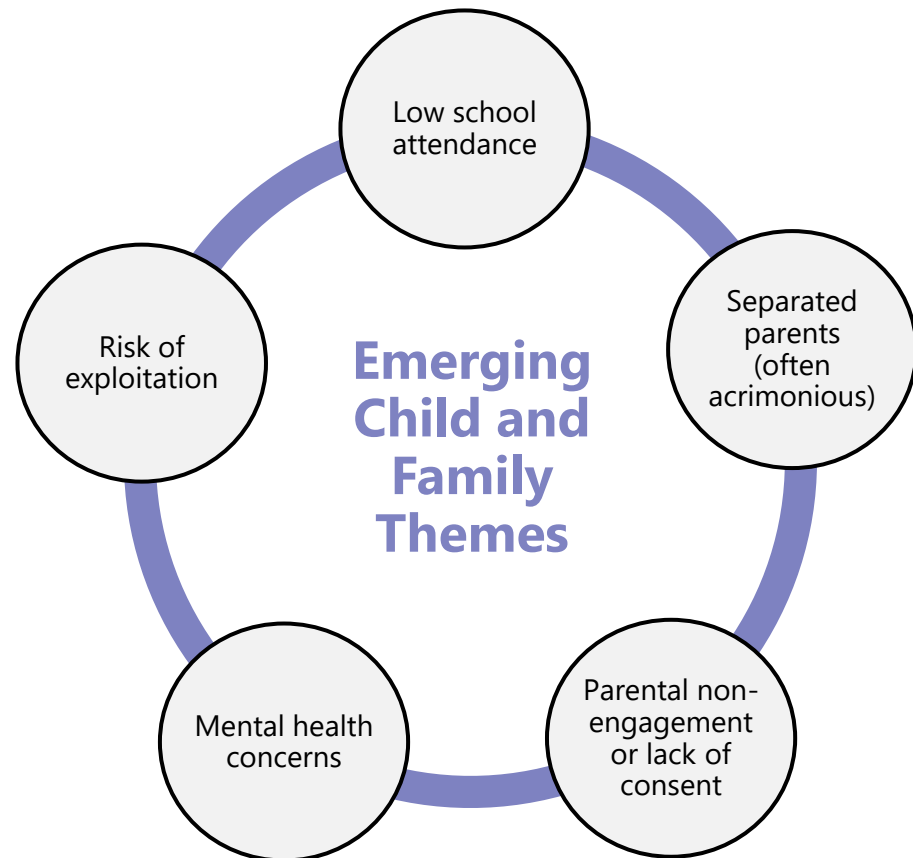
'At a glance'



Audit focus: Repeat requests for support made under the category of Neglect



Audit sample included 10 children & young people



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Recommendations and considerations for practice



Recognise and manage the issue of educational neglect with a multi-agency coordinated approach

Is low school attendance being treated as a safeguarding concern, and are you working with education partners?



Finesse and strengthen strategies to improve family engagement with early help services

What have you tried so far to engage the family, and what could you do differently?



Encourage collaboration and information sharing across multi-agency network

Who else is involved with the family, and have you shared or received all relevant information to build a full picture?



Focus on persistent concerns of neglect with multiple referrals, particularly where the home environment has not been seen

When did you or another professional last visit the family home?



Include non-resident fathers/partners in early help assessments and interventions

Have you met dad or the non-resident parent? Are they involved in the child's life, and have you considered their role in assessments and planning?



Improve accuracy, cross-referencing and sharing of information on the child's records held by different agencies to support high quality decision making and co-ordinated response

Have you shared relevant information with all partners involved?



Encourage greater professional curiosity and build confidence to challenge non-engagement and advocate for a family solution to neglect issues

When a family declines support, do you explore why — and what else you could do to stay involved or re-engage them?



Focus should not be the threshold for criminal investigations, but the trauma experienced by children

Have you considered the emotional impact and trauma the child may be experiencing, even if statutory thresholds are not met?

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What we hope to see in the future

1

Both parents routinely involved in all assessments, gaining a clearer understanding of the level of parental conflict that creates a neglectful and/or abusive environment.

2

A more collaborative approach is seen between partners when low school attendance is a dominant feature, confidently linking this harm to neglect, particularly when there is a lack of engagement or consent for support and the home environment has not been seen.

3

Recording always acknowledges potential trauma, the impact of harm on the child, and the need for support, regardless of the outcome of a threshold decision.

4

Ensuring the most accurate reflection of what happened to a child and what support has been offered to the family.

