

Surrey Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP) Neglect Screening Tool

For use with unborn babies, children, young people and their families.

This tool is to be used by all public-facing teams involved in safeguarding who have *'time limited'* contact with children under the age of 18 and/or people who use adult services who have children, to help them quickly identify children at risk of neglect.

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.

You may encounter families and children where you feel concerned or worried about what you have seen or heard. The Neglect Screening Tool asks you to consider a few simple questions to help you think about what it is like for this unborn baby, child or young person living in this family and consider if further action is needed. You can use the tool as a basis to talk through with the relevant person in your organisation (Manager, Safeguarding Lead) in order to decide the next steps required.

Where applicable, this form 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 0300 470 9100

What is Neglect?

Neglect has been described by the Government as ***'the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development.'***

Neglect is about the parent or carer failing to:

- **Provide adequate food, clothing or shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment)**
- **Protect a child from physical or emotional harm or danger**
- **Ensure adequate supervision (e. g. children being out late at night or a young child not supervised)**
- **Ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment**
- **Ensure access to adequate education**
- **Meet the emotional needs of the child**

The purpose of this tool is to:

- Identify signs of neglect at an early stage
- Help you discuss your **concerns** with someone who has greater knowledge about safeguarding children and families.

****Only complete the sections of this tool where you can evidence what you've seen and/or heard. Please try and use clear and objective language throughout.**

Name and e-mail of person completing the form:		Role of the person completing the form:	
Family/child/ren's name:		Date tool completed:	

Areas to consider	Detail of your concerns, please describe what you have seen and why you are concerned. Include voice of child where possible. Include any discussion with colleagues and/or partners, if this has taken place.	Is parent aware of your concerns?
<p>Physical care and health.</p> <p>a) Appearance of the child, for example clothing or hygiene.</p> <p>b) Management of the child's health.</p> <p>c) Is the child being brought to all appointments including medical?</p> <p>d) Does the child/young person's presentation concern you?</p> <p>e) Does the child have poor oral health (tooth decay/oral infections) that has not been treated?</p> <p>f) Is the child under/overweight? Are there concerns about their nutrition/diet?</p>		

<p>Parenting skills, emotional care and safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Is the child supervised adequately (in or outside the home)? b) Online safety- is this managed appropriately by parents? c) Are you concerned about the child's interaction with their parent/carer? d) Does the child's observed behaviour concern you? e) Is there a lack of emotional warmth or understanding of the child's needs? f) Are there concerns around the impact of parental mental health, domestic abuse or substance misuse on the child? g) If there are any adults with care and support needs living within the household, is this impacting upon the child? Is the child a young carer? h) Are parents motivated to work with practitioners? i) Is the child appropriately supervised by the parent? 		
<p>Conditions of the home:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Is the home unhygienic and/or are there dangerous conditions, including the garden? b) Is home safety appropriate for the child e.g. stair gates, medications locked away, fire alarms, carbon monoxide detectors, fire routes clear, sharp objects locked away etc.? 		

<p>c) Are all essential facilities present in the home?</p> <p>d) Are pets sufficiently cared for? (Is there evidence of pet/animal abuse/neglect?)</p>		
<p>Learning and development</p> <p>a) Is the child attending nursery/school regularly?</p> <p>b) Are there concerns about the child's learning, development and attainment at school/nursery?</p> <p>c) Any observations regarding the lack of stimulation and play (toys) for the child?</p> <p>d) Are you concerned about how the parent talks about or disciplines the child?</p>		
<p>Do the concern/s apply to all or particular children in the family?</p>		

This checklist does NOT replace your own safeguarding policy and procedures in cases where you are concerned that a child/young person has been or is at risk of immediate harm.