

Welcome to Neglect update - please share widely so we can all help children and Young people who may be suffering from Neglect to be quickly **identified** and receive the support early.

## **Be Curious. Act against Child Neglect**

Child neglect is the most **frequent** type of abuse and is the most common reason for a child to be the subject of a child protection plan or on a child protection register in the UK.

### **Identification of Neglect**

View the LSCB film about Neglect –here [Neglect Film](#)

**Neglect means not meeting a child’s basic needs.** A child may be neglected if they are:

- **Physical Neglect;** failing to provide for a child’s basic needs such as food, clothing or shelter. Failing to adequately supervise a child or provide for their safety- Living in an unsafe home, such as around violence, alcohol or drugs.
- **Emotional Neglect;** the omission of love and failing to nurture a child. Emotional neglect can overlap with emotional abuse but is a different form of maltreatment.
- **Educational Neglect;** failing to ensure a child receives an education.
- **Medical Neglect;** failing to provide appropriate health care, including dental care and refusal of care or ignoring medical requirements

Safeguarding children is **everyone’s responsibility.**

Children should have the support to develop and flourish physically, socially, and emotionally.

Neglect can happen over a period of time, but can also be a one-off event. A child who is neglected may often suffer from other forms of abuse as well.

### **What should practitioners do? Practitioners have a duty to:**

- Understand neglect and how it can impact on children at different stages of their development.
- Understand parental behaviours and the cumulative impact of neglect over time.
- **Talk** to children about their daily lived experience and be alert to a range of neglect, including physical, emotional, lack of appropriate supervision/boundaries.
- Intervene at the **earliest** opportunity to prevent the chronic impact of long term physical or emotional neglect on children.
- Work with parents, children and their network to prevent concerns escalating
- Understand the likely impact of neglect and use evidence based predictive assessment to intervene early and effectively.

- Share evidenced based information about children who are suspected to be at risk of harm from neglect.

This must be shared within and between agencies in order to ensure effective intervention that both builds on protective factors and reduces ongoing risk in families.

## Spot the signs

**Poor appearance and hygiene including;** being smelly or dirty having unwashed clothes having inadequate clothing, e.g. not having a winter coat seeming hungry or turning up to school without having breakfast or without lunch money having frequent and untreated nappy rash in infants.

**Health and development problems including;** untreated injuries, medical and dental issues repeated accidental injuries caused by lack of supervision recurring illnesses or infections not been given appropriate medicines missed medical appointments such as vaccinations poor muscle tone or prominent joints skin sores, rashes, flea bites, scabies or ringworm thin or swollen stomach anaemia and/or tiredness faltering weight or growth and not reaching developmental milestones (*known as failure to thrive*) poor language, communication or social skills being withdrawn or often being angry, aggressive or may self-harm.

**Housing and family issues including;** living in an unsuitable home environment, e.g. dog mess being left or no heating living in dangerous conditions, e.g. around drugs, alcohol and/or violence being left alone for a long time taking on the role of carer for other family members. [LSCB Neglect resources](#)

### WHY NEGLECT MATTERS Conference FREE

A HALF DAY, 14th March 2019, 1-4.30pm, **Book on here**

<http://training.kingstonandrichmondscb.org.uk/Course/CourseDescriptive.aspx?id=214>

Keynote from Jenny Molloy, author of the Hackney Child-**Amazing** & Professor Ray Jones, author of the Story of Baby P.



Remember The LSCB NEGLECT toolkit is designed to be completed by practitioners working with families where they suspect neglect may be an issue. <http://kingstonandrichmondscb.org.uk/news-resources/policies-and-procedures-87/child-neglect-toolkit-181.php>

### If you are worried about a child or young person:

Call -Single Point of Access (SPA)

020 8547 5008 for advice or to make a referral.

Or Out of hours number 020 8770 5000

Police 999

Or NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children)  
24 hour helpline,

Call 0808 800 5000

inquiring  
interrogative  
scrutinizing  
examining  
questioning  
wondering  
seeking  
exploratory sharp  
investigatory  
outward-looking  
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fact-finding  
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interested  
doubtful  
analytical  
inquisitive