

How to use the NSCB Neglect Toolkit

The below guidance has been designed to provide you with a guide to the Neglect Toolkit and when you should use each of the sections.

It is important to remember the toolkit is not just a tool to be used by staff working for Social Care, but is for practitioners in all agencies. The toolkit and the resources within it are there to support practitioners in their work with children and families at risk of neglect, and should be used when considering making a referral to MASH for neglect.

You can access the full Toolkit [here](#) or see below for direct links to the different sections.

The Graded Care Profile (GCP)

The Graded Care Profile (GCP) is the agreed assessment tool to be used in Northamptonshire when assessing Neglect. The GCP is not just a tool to be used by Social Care practitioners and can be used by anyone working with children and families. The GCP is a tool that gives an objective and graded measure of the quality of care being given across the four areas of need: Physical, Safety, Love and Esteem. The GCP displays both the strengths and weaknesses in the care being given and this helps to target specific areas of work and help families to better understand the need for interventions enabling engagement in a more meaningful way. The GCP should also therefore be used as a continuous tool over an extended period of time to evidence change positively and to highlight areas of concern when making a referral.

After using the GCP, should you feel a referral is necessary you should include all details of the GCP in your referral enabling Social Care staff to easily see and identify your areas of concern.

More information on the GCP can be found in chapter 7 (page 23) of the Neglect Toolkit accessed [here](#).

The full word version of the GCP for use with families including instructions on how to use can be found [here](#).

The Neglect Screening Tool

The Neglect Screening Tool has been developed for practitioners who only come into contact with children and families for a short period of time including A&E Staff, Ambulance Crews, Police Emergency Staff and other professionals. The screening tool will give you an indication if the GCP should be used or if further assessment is needed. Upon completion of the screening tool, should it indicate that the GCP would be beneficial, you should first contact a relevant person within your organisation, usually the Designated Safeguarding Lead, who will signpost you to someone who could complete the GCP with the family. If this is not possible and you wish to refer the case to MASH you should use the screening tool as the basis for your referral stating why you believe the family would benefit from an assessment using the GCP and attached the completed screening tool as evidence.

More information on the Screening Tool can be found in chapter 7 (page 25) of the Neglect Toolkit accessed [here](#).

A word version of the Screening Tool can be found [here](#).

Using Chronologies

When working with cases of Neglect the use of chronologies is imperative in creating a true picture of the family history. Chronologies are important when working with neglect as there may be fewer critical incidents, but where

children live in families where they are exposed to chronic and long term harm, chronologies can help identify these patterns.

A chronology should be used by practitioners as an analytical tool to help understand the impact both immediate and cumulative, of events and changes in a child's life. As there is unlikely to be a single event that leads to a referral being made, a chronology can evidence the neglect of a child, and when this is likely to occur and the impact this is having on a child.

More information on chronologies can be found in chapter 8 (page 26) of the Neglect Toolkit accessed [here](#).

An example chronology and template that can be used can be found [here](#).

Professional Challenge / Assessing Parents Capacity to Change

One key aspect that comes up time and time again in audits and Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) around Neglect is a lack of professional challenge and curiosity. Too often professionals take what parents tell them at face value and fail to explore and challenge the explanations given to professionals.

In the Neglect toolkit, we use the phrase resistance as a catch all to indicate a range of parental behaviours which serve to keep professionals at bay from identifying, assessing and intervening in neglect. Working with resistant families is very challenging and good multi agency working and effective supervision is essential to support practitioners maintain a focus on the child's needs.

If you suspect that parents may be showing signs of resistance then assessing their ability to change becomes essential to ensure that the children in their care are safeguarded from harm.

To assist professionals in this area the toolkit has a number of sections and tools which are all detailed below:

Chapter 9 (page 28) available [here](#) looks in depth at Working with Resistance including the types of resistance and ways you may identify parents are resistant.

To assist managers in supervision Chapter 10 (page 31) looks at Planning, Reviewing and the use of Supervision which can be accessed [here](#).

The toolkit also contains an assessment tool to assess Parental Motivation to Change which can be found [here](#).

NSCB have also produced a 'tea-break guide' on this subject and we encourage use of this as a quick reference guide for discussion in team meetings or with colleagues and can be found [here](#).