

**Solihull Pathways for Child Neglect Cases**

A practitioner recognise indicators of child neglect



Discuss with organisation Safeguarding Lead



Universal, Universal plus	Early Help	Statutory Services
<p><b>No Neglect-</b> Consistent good quality parenting where the child's needs are always paramount or a priority. <b>Mild neglect-</b> Failure to provide care in one or two areas of basic needs, but most of the time a good quality of care is provided across the majority of needs</p>	<p><b>Moderate neglect-</b> Failure to provide good quality care across quite a number of the areas of the child's needs some of the time.</p>	<p><b>Moderate neglect-</b> Failure to provide good quality care across quite a number of the areas of the child's needs some of the time. Community or single agency interventions have been unable to meet the needs or some moderate harm to the child has or is likely to occur without support as a child in need. <b>Severe neglect-</b> Failure to provide good quality care across most of the child's needs most of the time. Severe or long-term harm has been or is likely to be done to the child or the parents/ carers are unwilling or unable to engage in work.</p>
<p><b>Universal</b> All Children will access a range of Universal services; these could be G.P.'s, Health Visitors, Nursery, School, to name but a few. In most situations these services will listen to children and their families and ensure that their needs are met to enable good progress in most areas of development. <b>Universal Plus- Mild Neglect</b> For children where mild neglect is suspected universal services will offer additional support to address the areas of need, this may include sign-posting to community services. If someone in the setting is trained to use GCP2 this should be used , if not an holistic assessment should inform areas of need and a plan for addressing them be put into place and monitored. If progress is not made with this support, a multi-agency response should be considered.</p>	<p><b>Early Help</b> This requires a multi-agency co-ordinated intervention, with an <a href="#">Early Help</a> Assessment and plan for further support where needed. If one of the multi-agency workforce is trained to use GCP2 this should be used to inform strengths &amp; areas for development in parents/carers, and following a period of support and formal monitoring this should be repeated to recognise progress made. If there is no progress a referral to children's services may be required, recognising the cumulative impact of neglect.</p>	<p><b>Statutory Services Child In Need</b> A referral to children's services may be required progress has not been made with an Early Help plan and things are unlikely to improve without the support of children's Services. For Child in Need If not already used in Early help, GCP2 should be used to inform strengths &amp; areas for development in parents/carers, if already used GCP2 should be repeated and compared to the first to measure progress and inform a targeted intervention. <b>Statutory Services- Child Protection</b> A referral to children's services will be required if neglect is causing or likely to cause significant harm. GCP2 should be used to inform strengths &amp; areas for development in parents/carers. If the child is subject to child protection arrangements then the GCP2 should be repeated for each review, If this persists across a period of time or care is grade 5 in all areas, then discussion about a legal option may be required. The GCP2 can be used as part of the evidence for legal planning.</p>

**Things to consider if a Parent/carer is meeting the child's Physical, Safety, Developmental & Emotional needs**

<p><b>Physical- Nutrition</b> A good balanced diet is especially important for children because it's directly linked to all aspects of their growth and development – impacting on their level of health as adults too. Children of different ages require different nutritional intake.</p>	<p><b>Safety- in the parents presence in the home</b> Is the parent aware of safety issues and the risks their child is facing? Due to the high incidence of child deaths from accidents, it's important that there are adequate safety features in the home. These need to be relevant to the child's age.</p>	<p><b>Developmental -Interactive stimulation</b> The definition of developmental care implies several things – there are defined dimensions of development and development is orderly. The results of different stages of development lead to a more efficient way of functioning and, importantly, there are interactions between children and the context in which they grow up which will influence their development. Consider- How old is the child? Are there age-appropriate opportunities and items for stimulation &amp; interaction?</p>
<p><b>Physical- Housing</b> Research has shown that the quality of housing has an impact on the long-term emotional and physical health of children. What are the parent's/carer's commitment to keeping a tidy and safe environment for the child. If there are problems that the landlord should have fixed, how proactive has the parent been in relation to chasing it up?</p>	<p><b>Safety- online</b> This is a developing area with many more devices being connected to the online world; how many do children have access to? How aware are parents of the risks they may face using these devices, what protection measures are being taken to ensure their online safety?</p>	<p><b>Developmental- Approval</b> A child's relative understanding of world and society come from the parents and their interaction with the child. A child's first trust is always with the parent or caregiver. If the parents expose the child to warmth, regularity, and dependable affection, the infant's view of the world will be one of trust. Should the parents fail to provide a secure environment and to meet the child's basic needs; a sense of mistrust will result. Development of mistrust can lead to feelings of frustration, suspicion, withdrawal, and a lack of confidence.</p>
<p><b>Physical- Clothing</b> How children see themselves has been proven to have an impact on their long-term mental health. The clothes they wear can influence how people relate to them and in turn how they feel about themselves. It doesn't matter if the clothes are given from friends or family, the main thing is that the clothes are suitable for the weather, fit well and look clean.</p>	<p><b>Safety- in traffic</b> Research from the Institute of Child Health shows injuries account for 31 per cent of deaths in one- to four-year-olds and nearly half (48 per cent) of deaths in teenagers aged 15 to 18. The most common injury involves traffic accidents. So, it's important that parents help the development of traffic related safety knowledge of their child.</p>	<p><b>Developmental- Disapproval</b> Discipline and boundaries are not only good for children – it's necessary for their happiness and wellbeing. It's as vital for healthy child development as nutritious food, physical and cognitive exercises, love, and other basic needs. Without discipline, children lack the tools they need to navigate relationships and challenges in life such as self-discipline, respect for others, and the ability to cooperate with peers.</p>
<p><b>Physical- Hygiene</b> Often the first thing to be noticed about a child who's being neglected is that they are unkempt and smell badly. What is the child's normal hygiene routine? Do they have a hairbrush, a toothbrush, access to soap, shampoo, hot water &amp; clean towels?</p>	<p><b>Safety- when parent is absent</b> Neglect makes children more susceptible to other forms of abuse. In part this is due to parents not checking where their children are or leaving them with unsuitable adults. Does the parent know where the child is &amp; who they are with when they are not with them? Do they have safety/ check-in routines in place?</p>	<p><b>Developmental- Acceptance</b> Part of being nurturing as a parent is being accepting of your child's feelings, thoughts, and experiences. This is called 'parental acceptance' and goes a long way towards healthy interactions between parent and child.</p>
<p><b>Physical- Health</b> Health and developmental checks are invaluable- these can include antenatal, birth visit, neonatal hearing, blood spot, six to eight weeks check, and one to two years check. These also need to include visits to the dentist and optician. In addition does the parent seek appropriate medical treatment when their child is ill or do they delay in taking the child to the GP? Is there excessive use of emergency services rather than taking preventative action? Not only should the child be taken to the doctor initially – any follow up appointments should be organised and kept. Compliance with health-related advice is even more important for those children who have long-term chronic health conditions or disabilities.</p>	<p><b>Emotional -Responsiveness</b> Psychologists believe that the bond we form with our primary carer forms a template for all future relationships – with friends, teachers, and, in the future, with husbands, wives and our future children. For a child to feel secure, their main carers need to be attentive, sensitive and responsive to the child's needs. Sensitive parenting is not only important for children up to the age of 2, it's important for all children. Do the parents respond with sensitivity? With timing? What is the quality of responsiveness?</p>	<p><b>Emotional -Mutual engagement</b> What do observations of the family tell you? - Initiation of interaction- who initiates the interaction? Parents/ carers can tell you how they think something is going but it's vitally important to observe this. What is the quality of relationship between parent and child? The effort and warmth the parent/carer exhibits can be picked up in the carer's responsiveness, but are there any learning or behavioural difficulties that need more specific interactions- is this catered for? Do you have concerns about the relationship that you can't define easily? Reflect on what you observe- It's very important to discuss this in supervision or seek advice.</p>