**Neglect Screening Tool**

# Purpose of the Tool

The purpose of this tool is to help **you** to:

* Identify signs of neglect at the earliest point possible
* Be clear about what information **you** have
* Help the child/ren and their family understand your concerns about Neglect and what progress has been made
* Use **your** professional judgement to make decisions about the level of harm the child is experiencing and what action **you** should be taking to prevent the situation becoming worse
* Identify any other organisation or team that also needs to be aware of the situation to undertake additional assessment and intervention as needed

# Safeguarding Statement

This screening tool does not replace Shropshire’s and/or 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 please see [West Midlands Safeguarding Procedures Chapter on Neglect](http://westmidlands.procedures.org.uk/pkphl/regional-safeguarding-guidance/neglect) . If you are worried that a child is at immediate risk of significant harm, contact First Point of Contact on 03456 789021. Please make sure you have consulted the Threshold Document prior to doing this to help evidence your concerns. You may be asked to complete a [Multi-Agency Referral Form (MARF)](http://westmidlands.procedures.org.uk/local-content/zgjN/multi-agency-referral-reporting-concerns-marf/?b=Shropshire)

# Using this Tool

When you use this tool, you always need to consider the whole family and the context of the situation. Ask yourself:

* How many people live in the household? Of those in the household, how many people are showing signs of neglect?
* Is there an adult with care and support needs in the house and are they showing signs of Neglect? (If so, you may need to consider raising a safeguarding concern with First Point of Contact after speaking to the person to get their views)
* Do you need to consider completing the screening tool for each child?

This screening tool is intended to complement existing assessments and tools e.g. National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2), A Day in the Life of a Child (The Horwath Model), the completion of a chronology, Early Help Assessment, Child Exploitation Initial Assessment, Substance Misuse tool or other tools that support your practice. You can use the tool with children of all ages and should be undertaken with all children.

For you to assess whether Neglect is a factor, best practice would be for you to see the family in their home. This is not always possible for example, if you work in A & E or a school. If you can, you must make every effort to do this in order to develop an accurate picture of what is happening and understand what action you need to take. **Record evidence for each area of concern you have identified.** Only complete the parts of the tool you are certain about. If it is not possible to see the child, it should not prevent completion of the screening tool if you can explain your concerns or make a referral to Children’s Social Care if you are worried that a child is at immediate risk of significant harm.

# Personal Details

*Child’s* name

Date of Birth Child’s NHS No (if known)

Parents Name

Address

*Date you discussed your concerns with parents / carers*

If not discussed, give reasons below

*Have parents / carers contributed to this screening tool?* Yes  No

If no, give reasons below

*Does the child have any Special Educational Needs/Disability?* Yes  No

*If yes, state below*

*Your name*  *Date*

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| **Area of concern**  (examples are given as a guide only) | **Yes** | **No** | **Not**  **known** | **Details of concern for this child**  (include any specific reasoning, evidence and observations) |
| **1. Child’s weight**   * Is the child under or overweight? * Is the child’s fitness a concern? |  |  |  |  |
| **2. Child’s access to adequate food**   * Do you have concerns about the availability of food in the home? * Are there concerns about the quality and quantity of food provided? |  |  |  |  |

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| **3. Home conditions**   * Is the house and garden poorly maintained; are there signs of disrepair that impact upon the child? * Is there clutter or signs of hoarding? [(use Clutter Image Rating Scale)](http://www.keepingadultssafeinshropshire.org.uk/multi-agency-procedures-and-guidance/responding-to-self-neglect-in-shropshire/) * Is the house overcrowded? * Does the cleanliness of the home cause concern? Is it smelly and/or dirty? * Are there concerns about facilities for cooking, storing food, washing and heating? |  |  |  |  |
| **4. Child’s sleeping arrangements**   * Does the child have nowhere to sleep/no bedding/insufficient bedding/dirty bedding? * Does the child’s sleep pattern cause concern? Is there no (age appropriate) bedtime   routine? Is the child co-sleeping? |  |  |  |  |
| **5. Lack of age appropriate safety measures (stair gates/fireguards etc)**  - Is the home/garden unsafe and/or unsecure for a child? |  |  |  |  |
| **6. Type and/or number of pets**   * Are there signs of inappropriate care of pets (excrement/feeding/lack of exercise) * Is there a risk from animals to the child e.g. dangerous dogs/snakes |  |  |  |  |
| **7. Child not having appropriate clothing and footwear**   * Is the clothing/footwear inappropriate for the weather conditions? * Are the child’s clothes/shoes ill fitting, dirty, smelly, in poor repair, not cared for? |  |  |  |  |
| **8. Child’s physical appearance causes concern**   * Cleanliness/lack of hair brushing or teeth cleaning/unkempt/smelly * Does the child look tired? |  |  |  |  |
| **9. Is the parent seeking medical advice appropriately?**   * Are there unmet health needs? * Is there frequent illness? Does the child have persistent and untreated headlice? * Is medication not being administered as prescribed? * Are health appointments repeatedly missed? * The child is not registered with, and regularly accessing a dentist/GP * Is there evidence of tooth decay? * Is health related advice ignored for children with diagnosed illness/disability? |  |  |  |  |
| **10. Does the child appear to lack confidence or have low self-esteem?**  - Is the child socially isolated, not attending clubs or hobbies, misusing substances? |  |  |  |  |
| **11. Is there a lack of emotional warmth and interaction between parent and child?** |  |  |  |  |
| **12. Are there concerns relating to the child’s developmental needs?**   * Is there a delay in the child’s development for which there is no known reason? * Is there a lack of appropriate stimulation or play/access to age appropriate toys/games? |  |  |  |  |
| **13. Is the child frequently absent from nursery/school?**   * Does the child frequently arrive at school late? * Is this a young person who is Not in Employment Education or Training (NEET)? |  |  |  |  |

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| * If being home schooled, are there concerns about the child’s access to appropriate   learning?   * If attending nursery/school the parent does not show an interest in their child’s learning   and development and do not engage with nursery or school | |  |  |  |  | |
| **14. Inappropriate behaviour management and/or expectations from the parent/frequent**  **criticism/lack of interest in child’s achievements**   * Are there concerns about behaviour management? * Boundaries, if set, are not appropriate to the child’s age or stage of development | |  |  |  |  | |
| **15. Are there concerns regarding the supervision of the child?**   * Inside and outside of the home? * Is this appropriate to their age/stage of development? | |  |  |  |  | |
| **16. On-line safety**   * Does the child have access to inappropriate online content? * Do parents expose their child to on-line risks? Do parents have a lack of awareness of on-   line safety and do not discuss on-line risks with their child? | |  |  |  |  | |
| **17. Inappropriate peer relationships for age of child or relationships with unsuitable adults?**  **Are there indicators that the child could be at risk of exploitation?**  Does a [Child Exploitation Risk Assessment](http://westmidlands.procedures.org.uk/local-content/4cjN/child-sexual-exploitation-risk-assessment) need to be undertaken? | |  |  |  |  | |
| **18. Are the family experiencing financial hardship?**  - Does this impact on the care and wellbeing of the children? | |  |  |  |  | |
| **19. Is parenting compromised by one, or more, of the following factors:**   * Parental substance misuse * Domestic Abuse * Parental mental ill health * Parental learning disability/Acquired Brain Injury etc. * Parental self-neglect * Poverty | |  |  |  |  | |
| **20. Does the family have a history of or current poor engagement with services?**  - Often misses appointments, disguised compliance, shows little motivation to change | |  |  |  |  | |
| **21. Action plan resulting from this assessment** | | | | | | |
| **What needs to be done?** | **Who is doing it?** | | | | | **When by?** |
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Always discuss the completed tool with your manager/Designated Safeguarding Lead and follow your own agencies procedures to either manage the identified support required or to escalate to Targeted Early Help or Compass. To do this, a referral can be made via Shropshire Council’s First Point of Contact (FPOC). Consent will be required prior to a referral being made unless the child/ren are at risk of immediate harm.

# Next Steps

If action is required by you or family members, complete the action plan above.

As a result of the Screening Tool above is a GCP2 assessment needed? Yes  No

Are you trained to complete the GCP2 with the family? Yes  No

If you answered ‘No’ to the previous question, please state who will do this assessment on your behalf?

As a result of the above is a referral to FPOC required? Yes  No