

01 Background:

Published case reviews highlight that professionals face a big challenge in identifying & taking timely action on neglect. This briefing is based on case reviews published since 2014 where neglect was a key factor. It pulls together the learning contained in the published reports and stresses that professionals from all agencies must be able to recognise both physical and emotional neglect, understand the impact of cumulative and long term effects of neglect and take timely action to safeguard children and young people.

Why it matters:

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Neglect is a serious form of harm. It can be life threatening & should be treated with as much urgency as other forms of child abuse. Both families and professionals can become overwhelmed and demoralised by issues of neglect. Children may experience repeated unsuccessful attempts by professionals to try and improve the situation.

Neglect is a factor in **60% of serious case reviews**

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What to do?

Take neglect seriously.
Understand roles & thresholds,
Use the Children's Needs & Response Framework/ Graded Care Profile .
Articulate & share concerns.
Challenge/escalate if necessary.

[Learning from SCRs](#) NSPCC

www.rbscb.org

[Troubled Teens Report](#)

[GM Neglect Procedure](#)

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Information:

- ◆ Be aware of children who are more vulnerable to neglect - newborn babies, premature babies, babies with ongoing health needs & teenagers.
- ◆ Monitor & understand the significance of missed medical appointments
- ◆ Pay attention to accidents and injuries - they may indicate a of lack of supervision or living in an unsafe home.
- ◆ Have the confidence & knowledge to effectively assess parental capability to change Be clear with parents about what needs to change & by when & respectfully challenge if they fail to follow formal agreements
- ◆ See the bigger picture & understand the long-term impact of neglect



Information:

- ◆ Provide early evidence based assessment & intervention
- ◆ Undertake robust and comprehensive assessments
- ◆ Focus on the need to improve the child's daily lived experience If improvements are not sustained, professionals must decide whether legal proceedings are needed to protect the child.

Questions:

- Is the child is at risk of significant harm?
- What is daily life like for the child?
- What is the impact on the child?
- How have concerns been raised with the family?
- How has information been shared?
- What is the plan and what difference is it making?
- Are there signs of disguised compliance?

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- ◆ Use staff supervision to avoid case drift

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