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**Appendix 3 Child Neglect Screening Tool (age 11-17)**

This Screening Tool should be used in all cases where neglect is suspected and will aid practitioners in deciding whether a Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2) tool should be completed. The tool is intended for practitioners working with children and families in all partner agencies to quickly identify areas of concern which may indicate a child/young person is being neglected.

**If you have 3 or more ‘Yes’ answers, completion of the GCP2 is recommended to understand the lived experience of a child you are worried about.**

If you are not trained to carry out the full assessment using GCP2, you should contact a relevant person or team within your organisation who can complete this. If you feel your concerns for the child warrant a multi-agency response, you should submit a Family Connect or Request for Support form stating why you believe the child, young person or family would benefit from an assessment including the GCP2 and use this screening tool as evidence.

*This screening tool does not replace Birmingham’s and/or your own agency’s safeguarding policy and procedures, in cases where you are concerned that a child has suffered, or is at risk of, immediate and/or significant harm. All agencies should refer to* [*Right Help, Right Time*](https://www.lscpbirmingham.org.uk/delivering-effective-support) *for threshold guidance.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Child(ren)’s Name(s)** |  |
| **Child(ren)’s Date(s) of Birth or EDD** |  |
| **Is there open Early Help or statutory intervention for this family? Yes/No** |  |
| **Practitioner completing form** |  |
| **Agency** |  |
| **Date form completed** |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Are You Worried About?** | **Yes** | **No** | **Comments / Evidence** |
| 1 | The child’s access to adequate and nutritious food |  |  |  |
| 2 | Conditions in the home (are they unhygienic/cluttered/ overcrowded/lacking basic amenities?) |  |  |  |
| 3 | The child not having a suitable or safe place to sleep |  |  |  |
| 4 | The child not having appropriate clothing for weather conditions |  |  |  |
| 5 | A child not having clean or adequate clothing (size/condition/hygiene) |  |  |  |
| 6 | A child’s presentation (eg hygiene/body odour/dental decay/unclean hair and skin) |  |  |  |
| 7 | Whether a parent/carer is seeking (or supporting a young person to seek) medical advice appropriately or attending routine appointments |  |  |  |
| 8 | A lack of age-appropriate safety measures (including internet safety) |  |  |  |
| 9 | A lack of age-appropriate supervision in home and outside (including online) |  |  |  |
| 10 | A parent/carer not making safe and age-appropriate childcare arrangements (eg leaving home alone/leaving older child caring for sibling for long periods) |  |  |  |
| 11 | A lack of emotional warmth and positive interaction between parent and child |  |  |  |
| 12 | A lack of appropriate stimulation (including access to clubs/sports/social activities) |  |  |  |
| 13 | Poor school or college attendance or parent/carer not supporting education/does not engage with setting |  |  |  |
| 14 | Inappropriate behaviour management /frequent criticism/lack of interest in child’s achievements |  |  |  |
| 15 | A lack of (or inconsistent) age-appropriate routines and boundaries (including curfews and reporting young people missing where appropriate) |  |  |  |
| 16 | A high level of instability for the child (such as frequent home moves or changes of school, changes to people living in the home) |  |  |  |
|  | Any other concerns around neglect? Please specify |  |  |  |
|  | Total (add number in each column) |  |  |  |

**Neglect Screening Tool Guidance**

**Guidance for completing the screening tool when working with older children and adolescents**

It is recognised that, as children and young people get older, their needs will change, and they will become more independent. This is a normal part of growth and development. However, parents/carers can find meeting these changing needs challenging and some will need additional support. It is expected that, although parents/carers no longer carry out basic care tasks for their child directly, they would still support young people under the age of 18 to meet their own needs indirectly by providing them with the guidance and resources they require. This guidance explains how each section of the tool is relevant to an older child who is more independent. In all cases, effort made by parents to care for their child is being assessed rather than whether the child accepts this.

1. **Access to adequate and nutritious food** – an older child may choose not to eat what parents have prepared for them. However, it would be expected that there is adequate food available to them and they are encouraged to eat a balanced diet.
2. **Conditions in the home** – older children and young people may not keep their bedroom tidy. It would be expected that they have access to basic amenities such as a bed to sleep in, somewhere to eat and somewhere to study. It would also be expected that communal areas in the home such as kitchen and bathroom are kept clean and tidy.
3. **A suitable and safe place to sleep** – all children and young people should have a bed to sleep in and bedding available.
4. **Appropriate clothing for weather conditions** – older children and young people will often refuse to wear a warm coat to school or choose footwear that adults feel is inappropriate for example. The expectation would be that they have appropriate clothing provided for them and they are encouraged to wear it.
5. **Clean or adequate clothing** – similar to item 4, a young person may choose to wear clothing that is oversized for example. The expectation would be that they have adequate clothing provided and this is washed by parents/carers or that the young person is supported to care for their clothing.
6. **Child’s presentation** – often parents struggle to get older children to wash regularly. It is expected that they are reminded and encouraged to carry out self-care tasks such as showering, teeth brushing, hair washing and all necessary items such as soap, toothbrush, hot water are available to them.
7. **Seeking medical advice or attending appointments** – some young people may access health advice independently as they get older. In this case the expectation would be that they are supported to do so, know how to access services, and are registered with a GP. If young people have a disability, long term health condition or SEN need they may need more support than other young people in ensuring their health needs are met.
8. **Age-appropriate safety measures** – as children get older, this is more likely to be about online safety than physical safety measures. Depending on the child’s age and level of understanding, parents should have appropriate parental controls in place and an awareness of their child’s online activity and associated risks.
9. **Age-appropriate supervision** – older children are less likely to need to be supervised in the home however parents should be aware of where they are and who with when they are out in the community. This would include age-appropriate curfews and what action is taken if a young person does not return home on time.
10. **Safe childcare arrangements** – depending on the young person’s age it may be appropriate for them to be left alone at home or go out unsupervised in the community. It may be a concern however if this is excessive for example parents leaving them overnight or if they are given a lot of caring responsibility for younger siblings.
11. **Emotional warmth and positive interaction** – all children and young people need love, praise, and emotional warmth.
12. **Appropriate stimulation** – as children grow up they may not play with toys, but the expectation for older children would be that they engage in some social activities, hobbies, or interests outside of school to stimulate them and develop their skills. This could be anything they enjoy including things like sport, music and dance, arts and crafts, cooking, after school clubs, scouts, faith groups or youth clubs.
13. **School attendance** – it is acknowledged that some young people will refuse school. However, it would be expected that parents promote their child’s education and engage with the school or college to support attendance.
14. **Behaviour management** – this includes being overly harsh with a child or young person as well as failing to put any consequences in place for negative behaviour. It can also include failing to recognise a young person’s achievements and milestones.
15. **Routines and boundaries** – it can be difficult for parents to enforce boundaries as a young person grows up. However, the expectation would be that appropriate rules are in place in the home and there are consequences for young people not adhering to these.
16. **Instability** – having a large number of significant life changes can impact on young people and they may need support in dealing with this. Some changes are unavoidable such as a bereavement or breakdown of relationship. However, some families can be very chaotic, and it is important to consider the impact of this instability.

**Neglect Screening Tool Guidance**

The Birmingham Child Neglect Screening Tool has been developed as a means for front line practitioners in all agencies to quickly identify concerns which could indicate that a child or young person is being neglected. A pre-birth version is also available where there are concerns for a baby who has not yet been born.

The Child or Antenatal Neglect Screening Tool can be used by practitioners who have only limited contact with children such as GPs, dentists, police officers or professionals who predominantly work with adults. This will help determine whether there is a need to refer or signpost to further support. Completing the tool does not automatically mean children’s social care will need to be involved however it will help identify if there is a need for further assessment or support.

The Screening Tools can also be used by those who work with children and families but are unsure whether there is a need to complete a Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2) assessment. If neglect has already been identified, there is no need to first complete a screening tool and GCP2 can be started without delay.

Only complete the parts of the tool you know about, leave sections blank and do not guess if you are unsure. Use the text box to add any evidence to support your concerns. This can be based on your observations, interactions with the family or information received from another source.

**If you have 3 or more ‘Yes’ answers (or fewer if your concerns are high), completion of a GCP2 assessment by a licensed practitioner is recommended. If you are not trained to use GCP2 you should contact the relevant person or team within your organisation who can conduct this assessment. Email** [**GCP2@birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk**](mailto:GCP2@birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk) **if you are unsure who this is. If you feel your concerns for the child warrant a multi-agency response, you should submit a Family Connect or Request for Support form stating why you believe the child, young person or family would benefit from an assessment and use this screening tool as evidence.**

*This screening tool does not replace Birmingham’s and/or your own agency’s safeguarding policy and procedures, in cases where you are concerned that a child has suffered, or is at risk of, immediate and/or significant harm. All agencies should refer to* [*Right Help, Right Time*](https://www.lscpbirmingham.org.uk/delivering-effective-support) *for threshold guidance.*

If neglect concerns persist or are likely to cause harm to a child, discuss with your supervisor or designated safeguarding lead, and consider submitting a Request for Support to CASS

Complete Neglect Screening Tool

Discuss concerns with parents and complete GCP2 (if score is 3 or more or you are very concerned about any area)

Consider completing Early Help Assessment to address neglect concerns or submitting a Family Connect Form

Signs of neglect identified

(see appendix 2 for list)

**Neglect Screening Procedure**

**Circumstances where a Neglect Screening Tool should be completed**

List is not exhaustive but includes concerns that may be observed by professionals which can indicate neglect. Please refer to Birmingham Neglect Toolkit for further information and guidance. If neglect has already been identified, GCP2 can be completed without first completing a screening tool

* Child/young person misses appointments without valid reason
* Poor or inconsistent attendance at school or college or frequent lateness
* Child/young person not on roll at school and not receiving adequate education at home
* Medical attention not being sought for child/young person in a timely way
* Child/young person not registered with a GP
* Child/young person observed in dirty or ill-fitting clothes or clothes that are not suitable for the weather
* Child/young person observed with poor hygiene/unkempt/body odour
* Dental decay which is not being addressed
* Child/young person is very under or overweight and/or provided with very unhealthy diet
* Child/young person left home alone for long periods of time or looking after siblings inappropriately
* Child/young person not monitored online
* Lack of positive interaction or emotional warmth between parent/carer and child/young person
* Poor home conditions
* Child/young person is out of parental control
* Sexualised behaviour or inappropriate sexual awareness
* Young person asked to leave home without alternative arrangements being made
* Young person engaging in risk-taking behaviours such as drug & alcohol use, risky sexual activity, antisocial behaviour, missing episodes, self-harm
* Parents with significant difficulties which may impact on capacity to meet child/young person’s needs (eg mental health, substance misuse, learning disability, domestic abuse