

Physical. Educational. Emotional. Medical.

Neglect.



The Neglect Assessment Framework

Practice Standards and Practice Guidance





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Introduction

It can be difficult for practitioners to recognise the signs of neglect because there is unlikely to have been a significant incident or event that highlights neglect as a concern; it is more likely that there will be a series of issues or worries over a period of time that, taken together, demonstrate that the child is in need or at risk.

This Neglect Assessment Framework has been developed to:

- assist professionals in identifying and assessing neglect
- inform multi agency planning when the needs of a child are being neglected
- set out multi agency practice standards for use in Halton

The framework includes

- practice guidance
- practice standards
- the neglect screening tool
- the home conditions assessment tool
- the neglect assessment tool

Practice Guidance

The way in which we understand and define neglect can determine how we respond to it. This neglect assessment framework provides a structure and focus for practitioners to work with neglect across the partnership, and at all levels of support from Early Help to Child in Need and Child Protection planning. It also sets out how the neglect tools should be used to inform areas of key decision making for individual children within Halton.

The Neglect Screening Tool



Halton Neglect
Screening Tool - Neg

Using the Screening Tool

The tool is intended for use by any individual working with children and families as a means to quickly identify if their worry about a child/young person relates to neglect; it supports the practitioner to focus their thinking and potentially link a series of low level worries and identify a wider concern of neglect. The tool is straight forward and easy to use and you do not need to have accessed any bespoke training to use the tool effectively. It is designed to be applicable to all ages of children and should help you to identify:

- the signs of neglect at an early stage
- the need for further action
- Which agency/organisation/practitioner will progress further assessment/intervention if needed.

When to use the tool:

Practice Guidance

- To support discussion with a family (but not to be used as a checklist with them)
- In one to one supervision
- As a framework for reflective discussions with other involved professionals

Practice Standards

- Any contact with ICART where there is worry about neglect must be supported by a Neglect Screening Tool
- ICART will not accept any contact or referral where neglect is a feature unless the referral has an up to date screening tool attached. The only exception to this will be that delay in progressing the contact may place a child at increased risk. ICART practitioners must clearly record the reason for any exceptions on the child's individual contact or referral record.
- When there is an existing multi agency plan for a child and concern about neglect is beginning to emerge the screening tool must be used to inform if there needs to be further multi agency focus/activity in this area.

Home Conditions Assessment Tool



Halton Home
Conditions Assessm

Using the assessment tool

The Home Conditions Assessment Tool is a short assessment of the physical aspects of the home conditions and the impact this can have on the children who live there. It is designed to be applicable to all ages of children and the impact will differ depending on the age and development of the child.

For example, a badly soiled floor will have a different impact on a child who is crawling, when compared to an older child.

Again it is a simple, easy to use tool and you do not need to have accessed any bespoke training to

use it effectively

When to use the tool:

Practice Guidance

- To support discussion with a family
- In one to one supervision
- As a framework for reflective discussions with other involved professionals

Practice Standards

- Any contact with ICART where there is worry about home conditions must be supported by a Home Conditions Assessment Tool.
- ICART will not accept any contact or referral where home conditions are a significant feature unless the referral has an up to date assessment tool attached. The only exception to this will be that delay in progressing the contact may place a child at increased risk. ICART practitioners must clearly record the reason for any exceptions on the child's individual contact or referral record.
- When there is an existing multi-agency plan for a child and concern about Home Conditions is beginning to emerge the screening tool must be used to inform if there needs to be further multi-agency focus/activity in this area.
- A completed assessment tool must be used in the development of any multi agency plan be that Early Help (MAP) Child in Need or Child Protection. The effectiveness of the plan in supporting sustained improvement in home conditions will be measured using a review assessment completed no less than every 8 weeks.
- Any professional disagreements about the quality of home conditions and the impact on individual children will require a joint assessment to be undertaken to support resolution.
- Any plan to step up or down from Child Protection, Child in Need or MAP where home conditions has been a significant concern will be informed by a Home Conditions Assessment.

The Neglect Assessment Tool



The Neglect
Assessment Tool - N

Using the Neglect Assessment Tool

This Neglect Assessment Tool has been developed to assist professionals in identifying and assessing neglect, and to inform planning where there are concerns that the quality of the care of to a child or young person that suggests that their needs are being neglected. It is an assessment guide and does not require specific to training in its use.

When to use the tool:

Practice Guidance

- To support discussion with a family

- In one to one supervision
- As a framework for reflective discussions with other involved professionals
- As a framework for the practitioner to use in assessment i.e. planning sessions with parents/ careers as part of a single assessment, helping to focus on understanding the lived experience of the child and the impact of neglect.
- To use as a framework for writing court reports

Practice Standards

- The author of any assessment where neglect has been identified must confirm within their report that they have used the assessment tool as a framework.
- Any plan to step up or down from Child Protection, Child in Need or MAP where neglect has been a significant concern will be informed by an up to date child assessment that clearly indicates the use of the assessment tool framework.
- The above will include an up to date multi agency chronology.
- A child assessment using the assessment tool framework will be completed when the Neglect Screening Tool and/or the Home Conditions Screening Tool indicate that this is required.