

Neglect Reflection Tool

Neglect is cumulative and can be difficult to recognise. This tool is designed to support reflection, professional curiosity and analysis of a child's lived experience.

The Child

- Do they appear safe, well cared for and nurtured?
- What is their daily lived experience?
- What does the child experience when they wake up, attend school or nursery, spend time at home, and go to bed?
- Are their needs being consistently met?
- What might the child say about their daily life?
- What might they have come to see as "normal"?

The Parent/Carer(s)

- Are they able and willing to meet the child's needs?
- What barriers or vulnerabilities exist?
- How do they understand and respond to their child's needs?
- Are there factors that may be affecting parenting capacity?
- How do they respond when concerns are discussed?
- Are agreed actions being completed and sustained over time?

The Home

- Is it safe, clean and suitable for children?
- Does it provide warmth, food, hygiene and appropriate sleeping arrangements?
- Are there hazards that may place the child at risk?
- Are the signs of clutter, neglect, damage or poor maintenance?
- Does it support healthy development?

Professional Curiosity

- What am I worried about?
- What evidence do I have?
- What assumptions might I be making?
- What information am I missing?
- Have I considered the impact of culture, disability, additional needs or communication difficulties?

Looking for Patterns

- Are concerns isolated incidents or part of a wider pattern?
- What does a chronology tell me?
- Are multiple agencies reporting similar concerns?
- Are there recurring issues?
- Are there periods of improvement followed by deterioration?
- Has the focus shifted away from the child's experience towards parental explanation?

Resources

- [Kent Neglect Identification Tool](#): designed for practitioners to identify whether a child may be experiencing neglect and to what extent.
- [Kent Support Levels Guidance](#): provides a shared framework for identifying need and risk across all agencies.
- [KSCMP Neglect factsheet](#)

