

# Safeguarding Forum Update

Southwark Safeguarding Children Partnership

Neglect strategy

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# Working Together to Safeguard Children

## -Updated Dec 2023

Neglect - The persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development.

Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse.

Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

- provide adequate food, clothing, and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment)
- protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger
- ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate caregivers)
- ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment
- provide suitable education

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs

# Pathways to harm through neglect

## Severe deprivational neglect

where the neglect was the primary cause of death or serious harm; neglect of the child's basic needs leads to impairments in health, growth and development; severe illness or death may result from malnutrition, sepsis, or hypothermia among others.

## Medical neglect

failure to respond to a child's medical needs (acute or chronic) and necessary medication; such failure may lead to acute or chronic worsening of a child's health

## Accidents

which occur in a context of neglect and an unsafe environment; hazards in the home environment and poor supervision may contribute.

## Sudden unexplained death in infancy (SUDI)

within a context of neglectful care and a hazardous home environment; deaths may occur in dangerous co-sleeping contexts, or where other recognised risk factors are prominent and not addressed.

## Physical abuse

occurring in a context of chronic, neglectful care; the primary cause of serious harm or death may be a physical assault, but this occurs within a wider context of neglect.

## Suicide and self-harm

in adolescents with mental health problems associated with early or continuing physical and emotional neglect.

## Vulnerable adolescents harmed through risk-taking behaviours

associated with early or continuing physical and emotional neglect.

## Vulnerable adolescents harmed through exploitation

associated with early or continuing physical and emotional neglect.



NEGLECT STRATEGY  
JULY 2023

"SEE, LISTEN, AND BELIEVE ME." CHILDREN AT THE CENTRE OF OUR  
RESPONSE TO NEGLECT.

SOUTHWARK SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP 2022 - 2027



# Child Neglect Toolkit

For assisting in the identification of child neglect



# CONTENT

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>PHYSICAL CARE</b>                                  |           |
| Food  | 5         |
| Quality of housing                                    | 6         |
| Stability of housing                                  | 7         |
| Child's clothing                                      | 8         |
| Animals   | 9         |
| Hygiene   | 10        |
| <b>HEALTH</b>   |           |
| Safe sleeping arrangements and co-sleeping for babies | 11        |
| Seeking advice and intervention                       | 12        |
| Disability and illness                                | 13        |
| <b>SAFETY and SUPERVISION</b>                         |           |
| Safety awareness and features                         | 14        |
| Supervision of the child                              | 15        |
| Handling of baby/response to baby                     | 16        |
| Care by other adults                                  | 17        |
| Responding to adolescents                             | 18        |
| Traffic awareness and in car safety                   | 19        |
| <b>LOVE and CARE</b>                                  |           |
| Parent/carer's attitude to child, warmth and care     | 20        |
| Boundaries  | 22        |
| Adult arguments and violence                          | 23        |
| Young caring  | 24        |
| Positive values                                       | 25        |
| Adult behaviour                                       | 26        |
| Substance misuse                                      | 27        |
| <b>STIMULATION and EDUCATION</b>                      |           |
| Unborn  | 29        |
| 0-2 years   | 29        |
| 2-5 years   | 30        |
| School  | 31        |
| Sport and Leisure                                     | 32        |
| Friendships   | 33        |
| Addressing bullying                                   | 34        |
| <b>PARENTAL MOTIVATION FOR CHANGE</b>                 | <b>35</b> |

| Child Neglect Toolkit Checklist |   |                                |        |        |     |  |
|---------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|--------|--------|-----|--|
| Child's Name                    |   | DOB                            |        |        |     |  |
| Practitioner                    |   | Agency                         |        |        |     |  |
| Date                            |   | Is there a CAF for this child? | YES/NO |        |     |  |
| Pg                              | Development Need                                      | Score                          |        |        |     | Impact on child/young person – evidence and examples |
|                                 | <b>AREA 1: PHYSICAL CARE</b>                          | 1                              | 2      | 3      | 4   |  |
| 13                              | Food  | Green                          | Yellow | Orange | Red |  |
| 14                              | Quality of housing                                    | Green                          | Yellow | Orange | Red |  |
| 15                              | Stability of housing                                  | Green                          | Yellow | Orange | Red |  |
| 16                              | Child's clothing                                      | Green                          | Yellow | Orange | Red |  |
| 17                              | Animals   | Green                          | Yellow | Orange | Red |  |
| 18                              | Hygiene   | Green                          | Yellow | Orange | Red |  |
|                                 | <b>AREA 2: HEALTH</b>                                 |                                |        |        |     |  |
| 19                              | Safe sleeping arrangements and co-sleeping for babies | Green                          | Yellow | Orange | Red |  |
| 20                              | Seeking advice and intervention                       | Green                          | Yellow | Orange | Red |  |
| 21                              | Disability and illness                                | Green                          | Yellow | Orange | Red |  |
|                                 | <b>AREA 3: SAFETY and SUPERVISION</b>                 |                                |        |        |     |  |
|                                 | <b>AREA 4: LOVE and CARE</b>                          |                                |        |        |     |  |
| 22                              | Safety awareness and features                         | Green                          | Yellow | Orange | Red |  |
| 23                              | Supervision of the child                              | Green                          | Yellow | Orange | Red |  |
| 24                              | Handling of baby/response to baby                     | Green                          | Yellow | Orange | Red |  |
| 25                              | Care by other adults                                  | Green                          | Yellow | Orange | Red |  |
| 26                              | Responding to adolescents                             | Green                          | Yellow | Orange | Red |  |
| 27                              | Traffic awareness and in car safety                   | Green                          | Yellow | Orange | Red |  |
|                                 | <b>AREA 5: STIMULATION and EDUCATION</b>              |                                |        |        |     |  |
| 28                              | Parent/carer's attitude to child, warmth, care        | Green                          | Yellow | Orange | Red |  |
| 29                              | Boundaries  | Green                          | Yellow | Orange | Red |  |
| 30                              | Adult arguments and violence                          | Green                          | Yellow | Orange | Red |  |
| 31                              | Young caring  | Green                          | Yellow | Orange | Red |  |
| 32                              | Positive values                                       | Green                          | Yellow | Orange | Red |  |
| 33                              | Adult behaviour                                       | Green                          | Yellow | Orange | Red |  |
| 34                              | Substance misuse                                      | Green                          | Yellow | Orange | Red |  |
|                                 | <b>AREA 5: STIMULATION and EDUCATION</b>              |                                |        |        |     |  |
| 35                              | Unborn  | Green                          | Yellow | Orange | Red |  |
| 36                              | 0-2 years   | Green                          | Yellow | Orange | Red |  |
| 37                              | 2-5 years   | Green                          | Yellow | Orange | Red |  |
| 38                              | School  | Green                          | Yellow | Orange | Red |  |
| 39                              | Sport and Leisure                                     | Green                          | Yellow | Orange | Red |  |
| 40                              | Friendships   | Green                          | Yellow | Orange | Red |  |
| 41                              | Addressing bullying                                   | Green                          | Yellow | Orange | Red |  |
| 42                              | <b>PARENTAL MOTIVATION FOR CHANGE</b>                 |                                |        |        |     |  |
|                                 | <b>Total in each area</b>                             |                                |        |        |     |  |



## HEALTH: Seeking advice and intervention

| 1) Child focused care giving.  | 2) Adult focused care giving.   | 3) Child's Needs are secondary to adults.   | 4) Child's needs are not considered.  |
|--|---|---|---|
| <p>Advice sought from professionals/ experienced adults on matters of concern about child's health.</p> <p>Appointments are made and consistently attended.</p> <p>Preventative care is carried out such as dental/optical and all immunisations are up to date.</p> <p>Carer ensures child completes any agreed programme of medication or treatment.</p> | <p>Advice is sought about illnesses, but this is occasionally delayed or poorly managed <u>as a result of carer difficulties</u>.</p> <p>Carer understands the importance of routine care such as optical/dental but is not always consistent in keeping routine appointments.</p> <p>Immunisations are delayed, but eventually completed.</p> <p>Carer is inconsistent about ensuring that the child completes any agreed programme of medication or treatment, but does recognise the importance to the child, but personal circumstances can get in the way.</p> | <p>The carer does not routinely seek advice about childhood illnesses but does when concerns are serious or when prompted by others.</p> <p>Dental care and optical care are not routinely attended to. Immunisations are not up to date, but carer will allow access to children if home visits are carried out.</p> <p>Carer does not ensure the child completes any agreed programme of medication or treatment and is indifferent to the impact on child's wellbeing.</p> | <p>Carer does not attend to childhood illnesses, unless severe or in an emergency.</p> <p>Childhood illnesses allowed to deteriorate before advice/care is sought.</p> <p>Carer hostile to advice from others (professionals and family members) to seek medical advice.</p> <p>Routine appointments such as dental and optical not attended to, immunisations not up to date, even if a home appointment is offered.</p> <p>Carer does not ensure that the child completes any agreed programme of medication or treatment and is hostile to advice about this from <u>others</u>, <u>and</u> does not recognise likely impact on child.</p> |

**Reminder- Continuum of need matrix- newly adopted in July 2023**

<http://www.londoncp.co.uk/>

<https://www.londonsafeguardingchildrenprocedures.co.uk/files/threshold.pdf>

# Free Prescriptions for Care Leavers

- In line with the [Pan-London Care Leavers' compact](#) recommendations, we are increasing our offer to Care Leavers in south east London ICS.
- Prepayment prescription certificates are available to those Care Leavers aged 18-25 from southeast London, who are not entitled to free prescriptions through other schemes. The offer is available to all Care Leavers, including those who are working or studying, asylum seekers and those who are now living out of area, but are eligible for Leaving Care Services within Southeast London
- Please advise the Care Leaver to contact the Leaving Care Team in Local Authority they originate from in the first instance or ask their Personal Advisor (PA) to assist

NB: This is not a national arrangement, Care Leavers who live in Southeast London but originate from out of area, will need to seek advice from the care leaving team in the area that they originated from.





For women and children,  
Against domestic violence.



Southwark Domestic Abuse Service, run by Refuge.  
Working to end gender-based violence in Southwark.

Do you feel threatened or at risk of violence or abuse?  
We can support you.



Advocacy for those subjected to sexual abuse



Group discussions



One-to-one support session

### What support is available from the Southwark service?

We provide confidential, non-judgemental, and independent support services for those experiencing gender-based violence. For anyone living in Southwark.

- A specialist independent gender-based violence advocacy (IGVA) team to support those at risk of serious harm
- A specialist housing IDVA
- A specialist IRIS advocate educator service for those accessing support through their GP
- Access to adult one-to-one counselling and children's therapy with our partners Bede House
- A sanctuary scheme to improve home safety
- Group support
- Perpetrator intervention

We will work with you to create a support plan that helps keep you safe.

### What is gender-based violence?

- Domestic abuse (physical, sexual, economic, technological, emotional, or psychological abuse)
- Rape and sexual assault
- Stalking
- Prostitution
- Sexual exploitation
- Trafficking for sexual exploitation
- Female genital mutilation (FGM)
- Forced marriage
- So-called 'honour' -based violence

How can I access the service? **0118 214 7150**

E [sdas@refuge.org.uk](mailto:sdas@refuge.org.uk) W [www.refuge.org.uk](http://www.refuge.org.uk)

New Refuge Poster  
[sdas@refuge.org.uk](mailto:sdas@refuge.org.uk)