**The purpose of this screening tool**

**Neglect Screening Tool**

The Children Act 2004 places a duty on local authorities and their partners to co-operate in promoting the welfare of children and young people and to make arrangements to safeguard them. This screening tool’s purpose is to equip professionals to identify neglect at an early stage and to highlight the need for any further action. It is not an exhaustive list and does not replace agency policies and safeguarding procedures where a professional has an immediate concern for a child’s safety. This tool is intended to complement existing tools and assessments and can be used prior to the Graded Care Profile2 (GCP2), which could then be completed by a licensed practitioner if the screening tool identifies possible signs of neglect.

Neglect is often difficult to identify and assess due to its cumulative nature, and it can be hard to identify as a single agency, depending on your involvement. This tool could be used to support an individual practitioner to clarify their thinking and reflect on either a specific intervention or their wider involvement with a child or family, identifying whether this child would benefit from further intervention to help agencies understand what life is like for them.

**Using this screening tool**

Practitioners are asked to say what they are worried about or to ‘say what you see’, and then to provide clear examples in the evidence column. This is a short tool designed to be used by all agencies and, therefore, it is understood that, depending on a professional’s involvement with the family, they may not be able to comment on all sections.

Once completed, if areas of concern for the child have been identified, the tool can be used to aid discussions with your manager, or agency safeguarding lead, regarding any further action or next steps required, such as enquiring about a Graded Care Profile2 (GCP2) assessment of neglect being completed and/or consideration of completing an Early Help Assessment. Further information about Early Help can be found on the CYSCP website: <https://www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/early-help.htm>

If you are concerned about a child you should contact the MASH: MASH@york.gov.uk **or telephone:01904 551900**. If so a copy of the completed screening tool should be sent with any enquiry as it will support you in evidencing your concerns.

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| **Name, role, contact and date of details of Person completing this Screening Tool**  |
| **Name:** |  |
| **Role:** |  |
| **Contact Details:** |  |
| **Date Completed:**  |  |

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| --- | --- |
| **Family address:** |  |

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| **People who are important to your child** **– consider using Genogram tool**  |
| **Details of all children in the household aged under 18**  |
| **First name(s)** | **Surname** | **Date of birth** | **Ethnicity** | **Gender** | **SEN, disability or communication need** | **School/Education provider** |
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| **Details of Parents/Carers**  |
| **First name(s)** | **Surname** | **Date of birth** | **Ethnicity** | **Gender** | **SEN, disability or communication need** | **Relationship to children** | **Contact number** | **Address if different to child**  |
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| **Practitioners are asked to say what they are worried about or to ‘say what you see’, and then to provide clear examples in the evidence column. The following scaling should be used to identify your worries/concerns. This is a short tool designed to be used by all agencies and, therefore, it is understood that, depending on a professional’s involvement with the family, they may not be able to comment on all sections.**  |
| **Scoring < ----------- 1----------------2 --------------- 3 ----------------- 4 -----------------5 --------------- >****Key**  I am: Not at all worried Slightly Worried Worried Extremely Worried Concerned  |
| **Areas of concern****(examples given are as a guide only)** | **Using the above scale, how worried are you?** | **Some prompts to support when scaling this area of concern:-****What do you know about the impact it is having on the child, and how do you know that?** * Consider what evidence you have including any observations
* Do you know if the child’s parents, carers or people important to them recognise that there is something impacting the child and their role in adequately meeting the child’s needs?
* What support do you think the adults in the child’s life would say is needed?
* ‘Every Conversation starts with the child’ – what do you think the child would say about the care they receive
 |
| The child’s physical appearance E.g complexion, growth and physical development, are they looking tired, unkempt, dirty?  |  |  |
| Clothing fit and suitability for weather, provision, age and condition  |  |  |
| Their hygiene  teeth, hair, nails, skin, smellProvision of toiletries and encouragement to use them |  |  |
| The Childs weight  are they overweight / underweight? |  |  |
| Access to adequate food quantity and quality provided |  |  |
| Unmet health needs repeatedly not brought to appointments, poor dental care; difficulties with vision and hearing; do they have glasses if identified as needed, prescribed medicines, creams, inhalers unavailable; untreated head lice; frequently unwell |  |  |
| Lack of stimulation & play opportunities  |  |  |
| Lack of parental interest or parental engagement in education and development -not reported missing / poor school attendance and attainment |  |  |
| SupervisionIs the supervision of the child inside/outside the home appropriate to their age?Do parents / carers know where they child is? |  |  |
| Lack of warmth /little interaction between parent and child,Adult oriented issues |  |  |
| Child’s social presentation self-esteem, socialisation, interaction, isolation-consideration of the ‘social ggrraaacceeesss’ and how their identity is supported |  |  |
| Child’s behaviour including relationships with peers, risk taking and lack of boundaries Online safety  |  |  |
| Inappropriate behaviour management and expectations from parent high criticism/low warmth, are there age appropriate rules/sanctions? |  |  |
| Basic home amenities working cooker /fridge with food / bathroom facilities/beds and bedding /co-sleeping. |  |  |
| Home environment and decorationcleanliness /smells /clutterroutines in the home |  |  |
| Hazards in the home fire risks/physical dangers / lack of safety equipment like stair and fire gatesinappropriate or unknown adults in the home or looking after the child |  |  |
| The type and number of petsare the animals well cared for/safe / animal excrement/smells |  |  |

 Difficult