

## **HARINGEY CHILD & YOUNG PERSON NEGLECT TOOLKIT GUIDANCE**

This guidance supports the use of the neglect toolkit for all professionals working with children, young people and their families in Haringey.

It aims to assist in the early identification of neglect ensuring children, young people and their families are supported before problems escalate. The use of the checklist, and other key identification tools, will enable professionals to consider and identify neglect as the main cause of harm or a contributory factor when completing assessments and in decision making.

It also aims to ensure that professional judgement is used when working with families or those who return to services where other concerns are emerging. It will establish if neglect is a contributory factor or an underlying cause of the presenting concerns / issues.

Because of the nature of neglect, professionals should always consider the breadth of issues that may indicate neglect is an area of concern when in contact with all children, young people and their families.

The checklist and toolkit should be used in conjunction with other available tools such as those detailed in Haringey Toolkit Guide which includes tools on domestic abuse, child sexual exploitation and neglect.

### **The Haringey Tool**

The agreed Haringey Child and Young Person Neglect Tool is in two parts: -

#### ***Child and Young Person Neglect Toolkit Checklist (see appendix 1)***

The checklist is available for any professional to complete to help them use their professional judgement and assess the level of their concerns regarding neglect.

This checklist may be used alongside, other tools to understand or identify the level of need. For example, the CSE or Domestic Abuse toolkits

#### ***Child and Young Person Neglect Toolkit***

The toolkit gives detailed guidance to support:

- A common understanding of the nature of neglect across the partnership
- The completion of the checklist by any professional
- The completion of a more detailed assessment led by Children's Social Care. This will include the involvement of all key partners who know the child and their family.

### **Use by individual Agencies**

All agencies working or in contact with children and their families in Haringey, should be aware of the neglect toolkit and how it may support them in identifying neglect as an issue. Because the roles and responsibilities of professionals will vary there is a need to adapt the use of the toolkit and checklist. Below is the guidance and expectations for individual agencies in Haringey in relation to the use of the toolkit.

### **Children's Social Care**

*Children's Services are fully committed to implementing the Neglect tool kit. We will ensure that the tool is used at the start of any assessment / intervention with a family where there are concerns or neglect has been identified.*

### **Health (Including primary care, acute, mental health and community health services, health professionals i.e. health visitors, school nurses, GP's)**

*Health practitioners will use the neglect tool to identify and quantify neglect at an early stage. Health practitioners will exercise their professional judgement in deciding when to apply the tool and will be supported in this decision making by their agency safeguarding lead as required. For example, it is expected that health practitioners will use the tool to enhance their assessments when neglect is suspected, to support good quality referrals to social care and for use in supervision to help clarify concerns.*

### **Police**

*Police officers and staff will firstly utilise the First Responder checklist for neglect. This provides guidance on possible neglect situations and when to contact the Child Abuse Investigation Teams (CAIT) for further advice.*

*The Neglect Tool will be for the use of those working directly with children (CAIT), Child Sexual Exploitation Team and those most likely to encounter children and young people such as Community Safety Unit (Domestic Violence) and Missing Persons Unit.*

*Where the toolkit supports professional judgement that neglect is identified, referrals will be made to partner agencies through the MASH on MERLIN reports. Throughout this process, the Voice of the Child will be considered ensuring that officers and staff observe, listen to and are alert to the needs and impact of the investigation on the child and how they will be informed of outcomes. This will be recorded throughout the investigation*

### **Support**

Professionals will be supported to use this tool by:

- A core multi-agency training offer from Haringey Safeguarding Children Partnership
- Single agency training
- Supervision

### **Acknowledgements**

*Haringey has adapted this toolkit which was initially developed by Jane Wiffin on behalf of Hounslow LSCB, and has been further refined by Brent LSCB. The original concept came from work undertaken by Dr Leon Polnay and Dr O P Srivastava at Bedfordshire and Luton Community NHS Trust and Luton Borough Council.*

## Appendix 1

**Child & Young Person Neglect Toolkit Checklist**

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Dob: \_\_\_\_\_

Practitioner: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Is there a CAF or statutory assessment for this child? YES/NO

Development Need	Score				Examples/evidence of impact child/young person
	1	2	3	4	
<b>AREA 1: PHYSICAL CARE</b>					
Food					
Quality of housing					
Stability of housing					
Child's clothing					
Animals					
Hygiene					
<b>AREA 2: HEALTH</b>					
Safe sleeping arrangements and co-sleeping for babies					
Seeking advice and intervention					
Disability and illness					
<b>AREA 3: SAFETY and SUPERVISION</b>					
Safety awareness and features					
Supervision of the child					
Handling of baby/response to baby					
Care by other adults					
Responding to adolescents					
Traffic awareness and in car safety					
<b>AREA 4: LOVE and CARE</b>					
Parent/carer's attitude to child, warmth and care					
Boundaries					
Adult arguments and violence					
Young caring					
Positive values					

Adult behaviour	Green	Yellow	Orange	Red	
Substance misuse	Green	Yellow	Orange	Red	
<b>AREA 5: STIMULATION and EDUCATION</b>					
Unborn	Green	Yellow	Orange	Red	
0-2 years	Green	Yellow	Orange	Red	
2-5 years	Green	Yellow	Orange	Red	
School	Green	Yellow	Orange	Red	
Sport and Leisure	Green	Yellow	Orange	Red	
Friendships	Green	Yellow	Orange	Red	
Addressing bullying	Green	Yellow	Orange	Red	
<b>PARENTAL MOTIVATION FOR CHANGE</b>					
<b>Total in each area</b>	Green	Yellow	Orange	Red	

**What actions are to be taken as a result of completing this checklist?**