**Neglect Checklist**

**Tool to aid Professionals working with Children and Families, in the identification of Neglect**

**Definition of Neglect**

The London Child Protection Procedures – updated 2015 defines neglect as:

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| 1.3.6 | Neglect is 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. |
| 1.3.7 | Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance misuse, maternal mental ill health or learning difficulties or a cluster of such issues. Where there is domestic abuse and violence towards a carer, the needs of the child may be neglected. |
| 1.3.8 | Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent 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 care-givers);
* Ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.
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| 1.3.9 | It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional, social and educational needs. |

Neglect is not a discreet event but rather an absence of appropriate care, frequently over a long period of time. It may be difficult to distinguish between neglect and material poverty.

This is a checklist or a prompt to consider the needs of a child or young person. Any one sign or even a number may not in themselves indicate Neglect. This requires professional judgement and discussion.

This is to assist professionals in the identification of issues or concerns about a child or young person, in order to inform next steps and consultation with Children’s Social Care.

The use of the term ‘child’ will refer to all children 0-18 years unless otherwise specified.

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| Tick Box | Signs and Symptoms | Comments |
|  | **Development and Education**  |  |
|  | The child’s general development is not what you would expect of a similar child |  |
|  | Age appropriate communication skills are not evident |  |
|  | The child’s attendance at school or nursery is below 95%  |  |
|  | The child does not attend school or nursery on time |  |
|  | The child does not arrive at school or nursery prepared, so basic needs can be met  |  |
|  | The child is not always collected on time from school or nursery  |  |
|  | **Health Care**  |  |
|  | The child is not registered with a GP locally |  |
|  | The child does not have good dental hygiene |  |
|  | The child does not have all appropriate immunisations |  |
|  | Parent or Carer does not seek medical attention in a timely manner The child does not attend regular health appointment as recommended eg hearing, visual or speech and language as required |  |
|  | Child does not always attend health appointments accompanied by parent/carer when required |  |
|  | The child has a chronic health condition which is not well managed e.g. Asthma, diabetes  |  |
|  | The child has a skin condition this is not well managed e.g. Eczema, scabies  |  |
|  | The child has recurrent minor infections  |  |
|  | The child does not frequently attend the Urgent Care Centre or A&E in hospital  |  |
|  | **Feeding and eating** |  |
|  | The child is not of the expected growth for age  |  |
|  | The child looks not look well nourished  |  |
|  | The child does not feed or eat well |  |
|  | The child does not have an adequate and balanced diet |  |
|  | The child does not have a healthy weight (e.g. excessively overweight or underweight)  |  |
|  | The child has an unusually large appetite  |  |
|  | There is evidence that the child is stealing or hoarding food  |  |
|  | **Appearance**  |  |
|  | The child is not always dressed appropriately for weather conditions  |  |
|  | The child does not have correctly fitting clothes and shoes  |  |
|  | There is evidence of poor hygiene (i.e. dirty, grubby, smelly or unkempt)  |  |
|  | **Emotion and behaviour**  |  |
|  | The child is not well stimulated  |  |
|  | Evidence of attention seeking behaviour or short attention span.  |  |
|  | Evidence of any behaviour problems or destructive behaviour  |  |
|  | Parents/carers are not receptive to advice on child’s emotional/behavioural needs  |  |
|  | The child has poor friendship group and is isolated |  |
|  | There is evidence of emotionally unresponsive to peers or adults (e.g. appears flat in mood)  |  |
|  | **Environmental factors (relate to home environments)** |  |
|  | Smokers in the household do not ensure that the child is in a smoke-free environment  |  |
|  | There are no clear, clean and tidy areas for child to play  |  |
|  | Evidence of hazards in home e.g. fire risks, sharp objects, needles  |  |
|  | Home is in a poor state of repair  |  |
|  | There is not adequate food in the cupboards  |  |
|  | The child does not have a bed or a bed with bedding  |  |
|  | The parent / carer does not ensure the child receives age appropriate supervision in or outside of the home  |  |
|  | **Attachment and emotional care**  |  |
|  | Child does not respond to or seek the attention of parental figure or carer |  |
|  | Parental figure or carer does not response to child’s emotional or physical needs |  |
|  | Child shows reluctance or refusal to return home  |  |
|  | **Early Years specific checklist (aged 0-5** **years)**  |  |
|  | The child is not meeting key developmental milestones (consider 2-Year-Old Progress Check)The child has not attended all developmental checks  |  |
|  | The child suffers from persistent or recurrent nappy rash  |  |
|  | Nappies are not changed regularly  |  |
|  | Child does not present as content and easy to settle  |  |
|  | Alternative care arrangements (childminder, family member, nanny etc.) for the children are not always considered appropriate  |  |
|  | The household is generally not stable and there appear to be unidentified adults or young people in the home  |  |
|  | There is bruising on child who is not mobile  |  |
|  | There is evidence of unexplained injury  |  |
|  | The child has a good routine  |  |
|  | The child has recurrent or frequent accidents  |  |
|  | **School aged child specific checklist (aged 5 to 16)** |  |
|  | The child is not making good educational progress  |  |
|  | Alternative care arrangements (childminder, family member, nanny etc.) for the children are not always considered appropriate  |  |
|  | The household is generally not stable and there appear to be unidentified adults or young people in the home  |  |
|  | The child is exposed to inappropriate films, websites or materials  |  |
|  | The child goes missing from home or school |  |
|  | The child does not have good boundaries and routines  |  |
|  | The child is left alone inappropriately  |  |
|  | Inappropriate expectations to provide physical or emotional care for a sibling or other adult  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  | The child does use substances e.g. drug / alcohol use, legal highs etc. |  |
|  | There is evidence of unexplained injury There is evidence of possible self-harm and/or suicidal idealisation |  |
|  | The child does have recurrent accidents  |  |
|  | There are risk factors identified in respect to child sexual exploitation (see Screening Tool) |  |
|  | There are risk factors identified in respect to radicalisation. |  |
|  | **Disabled child specific checklist**  |  |
|  | Parent do not attend all paediatric reviews  |  |
|  | Concerns about lack of developmental progress which is not consistent with the disability of additional needs  |  |
|  | Disability benefits are not used to meet the child’s needs  |  |
|  | If the child wears nappy pads, these are not changed regularly  |  |
|  | If the child is non-mobile, there is evidence of pressure sores developing  |  |
|  | Child is not afforded the opportunity to socialise |  |
|  | **Young People specific checklist** |  |
|  | Young person does not sleep regularly at home |  |
|  | Lack of parental concern or acknowledge of need |  |
|  | Family conflict |  |
|  | Social isolation |  |
|  | Emerging or persistent patterns of criminal behaviour |  |
|  | Missing from Education |  |
|  | Parent does not accept or show appropriate support for their child |  |
|  | Clothing is not adequate  |  |
|  | Concerns over personal cleanliness and the home environment |  |
|  | Lack of parental boundaries and supervisory oversight |  |
|  | Substance use – parental / young person |  |
|  | Health crisis not being addressed |  |

Reminder notes on possible uses of checklist:

* This checklist is a tool to consider possible areas of concerns, and is not a definitive list.
* Can be used by professional(s) to clarify initial concerns about neglect and determine whether to refer to children’s services (Early Intervention/Children’s Social Care)
* Use information derived from the checklist, in your assessment of the child’s needs for support or protection
* Utilise the checklist to support your report to an initial or review child in need meeting or a child protection conference

More guidance on Neglect can be found on the LSCB Website.

If you are unsure about the level of risk and whether to refer, see also the Threshold of Needs on the LSCB Website.

If you are concern about a possible safeguarding matter Child Protection Advisors are available for consultation and advice. Details for safeguarding consultation can be located on the individual Council websites and the LSCB Website