



Cheshire East Safeguarding
Children's Partnership

Guidance: Child Neglect Family Snapshot Tool

(Adapted from advice, Jane Wiffin, Local Child Practice review Author)

- If completing electronically, hover over the underlined words in the body of the tool to see the notes below.
- If completing on paper, the words below refer to the underlined words within the form.

PURPOSE: To enable *all* practitioners to recognise and respond to the earliest signs and impact of the neglect of children by their parent/caregiver. This form is intended to be a record of your analysis of the child's needs and family circumstances and action intended to address this. The support offered is to prevent the situation from worsening for the child where early help support is appropriate.

Use this form to initially:

- guide professional reflection in supervision/ alone/ peer discussion/with family including the child.
- provide a clear record of events and perspectives, where actions can be agreed and taken, plans can be created and, reviews can be held with an outline for next steps to be followed up as applicable.
- For longer interventions, analysis can be developed within the discussion sections of this form, including other professional perspectives and leading to more robust intervention and planning.

*** Hover over the underlined words to reveal tips on completing sections of this form. The tips are also included at the guidance document which accompanies this form***

Child's Name		Completed by		Date for review 1
D.O.B		Agency		Date for review 2
Common ID ref?		Start Date		Date for review 3
Living with:				

CONSULTATION to include others: (required for wider family/professionals)	<u>Who:</u>	Date:
<u>Family</u> members:		
<u>Professionals:</u>		
<u>Conclusion:</u>		

1. Recognise and respond	
What have you <u>noticed</u> ?	Noticed: • Brief description of observations. Note down any niggles or minor worries. • Have you noticed a change in presentation, appearance/smell, attitude? • Is the child/parent less available than before?





Since <u>when</u>?	When: - When did you first notice things had changed for the child/parent? - When did they notice or start to feel a change?
What have you <u>done</u> so far? <i>(include conversations and signposting)</i>	Done: - Any advice given or actions already taken? - What were the responses from the child/parent/carer? - Have you spoken to anyone else about this? What was their advice?

2. Categories of care – See also guidance for tool 2

Tick the areas of care where help is needed and provide examples in each category.

<u>Physical</u> care	Physical This occurs when a child's basic physical needs are not met. This includes inadequate provision of food, clothing and housing. It can involve failure to protect a child from physical harm or danger and environmental neglect : home conditions, exposure to hazardous environments.
<u>Emotional</u> care	Emotional This type of neglect involves the failure to meet a child's emotional needs. It includes lack of affection, attention, and emotional support and may involve adult behaviours and goals, such as work commitments, substance misuse or domestic abuse
<u>Educational</u> needs	Educational This occurs when a child's educational needs are not met. It includes failure to enrol a child in school, ignoring special education needs, or allowing missing episodes and attendance below 85%, classed as persistent absence or below 50%, classed as significant and serious absence.
<u>Medical</u> & health care	Medical This type of neglect involves the failure to provide necessary medical or dental care. It includes ignoring medical and health recommendations, not providing medication, or not seeking or being brought for medical help and appointments when needed.
<u>Nutritional</u> care	Nutritional This occurs when a child is not provided with adequate nutrition. It includes not enough or too much food, poor diet quality, and failure to address dietary needs.
<u>Supervision</u> & Guidance	Supervision This involves failure to provide appropriate supervision and guidance that would otherwise protect a child from potential harm or encourage their ability to thrive. It includes leaving a child alone or in the care of inappropriate carers.



3. What is the impact on the child?

Impact

- Thinking from the child's point of view, and from what you have noticed above:
- How is this affecting the child?
- What can we predict for the future if nothing changes?
- And, what might happen if things get worse?

4. What is causing the neglectful care, whether it is intentional or circumstantial and whether there is capacity for change?

Causing

- What or who is causing the signs of neglect?
- Consider for instance, circumstance, poverty and environment, caregiver absence, caregiver approach to parenting, who is living in the household, what support does the family have etc?
- You are trying to establish the cause to identify and target what type of support might create effective change and be the most helpful intervention - use language that does not accuse or place blame on anyone as this will likely turn the caregiver away from any support that can be offered.

Capacity

- Sometimes, children don't get the care they need because adults don't know how, or choose not to help. This can happen by accident or on purpose, but it still means the child isn't safe or looked after properly.
- Some neglect is deliberate and intentional, however, harm to a child might not be the intended consequence. Intention only applies to caregiver acts, not the consequences of those acts. E.G a caregiver may intend to hit a child as punishment (not an accident and is intentional) but, not intend to create the consequence of concussion.
- Other neglect is circumstantial involving the failure to provide for a child's basic physical, emotional, educational needs or to protect a child from potential or actual harm - Like deliberate and intentional neglect, harm to a child might not be the intended consequence.
 - Most parents do not wish to harm their child.
 - How would describe the parenting approach you have seen? Offer examples
 - Is there scope for changing their approach?
 - Are there any barriers to making changes?

5. What other kinds of abuse is neglect enabling?

Abuse

- Has anyone spoken to the child to help them open up about their experience?
- It is important to give children opportunities to talk about possible sexual abuse, physical harm and emotional abuse that might be happening alongside the neglect.

I have spoken with these people who say: (if not, why not?)

Child:

Parents/carers:





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<u>Recommendations:</u>			
What	Who	When	Intended outcome for the child – what does change look like?
Date for Review 1			

REVIEW 1					
DATE:		Have previous actions been completed?	YES		NO
Review 1: Update Discussion					
NEW Recommendations					
What	Who	When	Intended outcome for the child – what does change look like?		
Date for Review 2:					

REVIEW 2					
DATE:		Have the actions above been completed?	YES		NO
Review 2: Update Discussion					
NEW Recommendations					
What	Who	When	Intended outcome for the child – what does change look like?		
Date for Review 3:					

REVIEW 3					
DATE:		Have the actions from	YES		NO





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		review 2 been completed?				
Review 3: Update Discussion						
NEW Recommendations						
What		Who	When	Intended outcome for the child – what does change look like?		

NOTE: refer to guidance/pathway/threshold docs when recommendations/actions not met

Cheshire East resources and Family Hub contacts: [Live Well Cheshire East](#)

