



Neglect

Policy and Practice Guidance 2025

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South Gloucestershire Child Protection Procedures can be found on the South West Child Protection Procedures (SWCPP) [website](#). **Neglect procedures are available [here](#)**. This two page guidance document must be read alongside the SWCPP procedure.

What is Neglect?

Neglect is defined in Working Together to Safeguard Children as "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 the child from physical and emotional harm or danger;
- Ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers); or
- Ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment"

Neglect differs from other forms of abuse in that there is rarely a single incident or crisis that draws attention to the family. Rather it is repeated, persistent neglectful behaviour that causes incremental damage over a period of time. It is important to avoid 'start again' syndrome. Neglect should not only be measured by the most recent set of events but should be judged by the cumulative impact on the child of any previous incidents.

What are the signs?

Are there any resources to help identify neglect?

South Gloucestershire Children's Partnership have a new Neglect Toolkit that should be used by any professional who is worried that a child is being neglected. The toolkit helps you to think about neglect in 6 domains: physical care, health, safety & supervision, love and care, stimulation & learning and capacity & commitment to change. You can use this tool by [clicking here](#)

There are other resources to use with children and families on the partnership website [here](#).

Using the neglect toolkit

This toolkit should be used by practitioners from all organisations, or a team of practitioners, to help assess neglect within families even at a low level and plan for change.

Always attach a copy of the tool if making a referral.

- You can contact the Compass Team who will help identify the right help for the child compass@southglos.gov.uk
- You can complete a [Request for Help Form](#)
- If you are worried about a child being at risk of significant harm you should contact the ART Team **01454 866000**
- If you suspect a child may be in immediate danger, you should dial [999](#) immediately

How do I report Neglect?

This Quick Guide has been produced by the [South Gloucestershire Children's Partnership](#)
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