**Health Neglect Evidence Tool**

This document has been designed to be used alongside the Was Not Brought policy if a child has not been brought to appointments or there has been no access home visits. The aim is to help practitioners formulate their thoughts on why they are concerned that a child’s health needs are being neglected. This should be used when there are safeguarding concerns around a child not being brought to appointments, or other concerns that a parent is not meeting their child’s health needs.

There are many reasons for non-engagement with health professionals and evidencing this is resulting in neglect can be challenging. The template below is to help the practitioner who has concerns evidence why social care involvement would be beneficial.

There are a number of different documents available for reference to on the LSCP websites for the different local authorities and they are hyperlinked at the bottom of this document.

Every line does not need to be completed. The aim is to create a narrative around concerns.

**Brief description of case:**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**WNB/ no access visits data**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Issue** | **Number/evidence** | **Parents responses/action taken by clinician** | **Date seen** |
| Was not brought to appointments |  | Clinician followed flow chart on WNB policy |  |
| Appointments cancelled by parents |  |  |  |
| No access home visits |  |  |  |

**Other concerns around possible neglect**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Issue** | **Evidence and action taken by clinician** | Date seen |
| Unmet health needs |  |  |
| Lack of interaction with carer |  |  |
| Carer noted to not attend to child’s requests for attention |  |  |
| Child presents as hungry |  |  |
| Child has poor diet |  |  |
| Child underweight |  |  |
| Child overweight |  |  |
| Child has poor sleep |  |  |
| Child has dirty clothes |  |  |
| Child has delayed development |  |  |
| Multiple attendance at A&E |  |  |
| Negative and derogatory comments heard from parent to child |  |  |
| Parents shout at children in front of professionals |  |  |
| Parents shout at professionals when disagreeing with them |  |  |
| Child emotional outbursts being managed with punitive parenting strategies |  |  |
| Home conditions |  |  |
| School refusal |  |  |
| Lack of engagement with emotional coaching strategies (eg parenting courses/ triple P/NVR) |  |  |
| Child going missing |  |  |
| Sense of hopelessness and there not being a point to professional support |  |  |
| Concerns parent presents as chaotic and not organised enough to remember appointments |  |  |
| Concerns parent not attending due to wanting to avoid further ‘bad news’ or feels demands may be put on them which they cannot achieve |  |  |
| Looked after child |  |  |

**Parental risk factors for neglect**

Please document in the table below further evidence of risk factors in the parent’s lifestyle which could contribute to neglect.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Risk factor | Present or suspected | evidence |
| Domestic abuse |  |  |
| Substance misuse |  |  |
| Mental health issues |  |  |
| Poverty |  |  |
| Lone parent |  |  |
| Young parent |  |  |
| Parental disability |  |  |
| Child disability |  |  |
| >4 children in the household |  |  |
| History of parent being in the care system |  |  |
| Long term unemployment |  |  |
| Parent with criminal conviction |  |  |
| Parent with learning difficulty |  |  |
| Multiple pregnancies and losses |  |  |
| Parent emotionally unregulated – prone to emotional outbursts and unable to stay calm during conversations |  |  |
| Antisocial behaviours from other siblings |  |  |
| Inability to see the role they play as parent in developing their child’s emotional responses |  |  |

**PARENTAL Adverse Childhood Experiences**

Parents may neglect their children due to the adverse experiences they had in their own childhood. This can result in avoidant behaviours when challenged by professionals, especially when the challenge is around parenting. Complete this when thinking about the child’s grandparents and the relationship they had with the child’s parents. This is not about the parents themselves. It is ok if you do not know.

Please add this information if this is information which you have been told by the parent.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Risk factor | Present or suspected | Present or suspected | evidence |
|  | Mother | father |  |
| Parental mental health issues |  |  |  |
| Parental substance misuse |  |  |  |
| Domestic abuse |  |  |  |
| Parental separation |  |  |  |
| Parent in prison |  |  |  |
| Emotional abuse |  |  |  |
| Emotional neglect |  |  |  |
| Physical abuse |  |  |  |
| Sexual abuse |  |  |  |
| Physical neglect |  |  |  |

**If you are including parental ACES in any referral information you must discuss this with the parents prior to referral**

When you have completed this it is recommended that you discuss this in safeguarding supervision. It is worth cross referencing this with the neglect tools below to reference the level of concern. When undertaking referrals acknowledge the use of the local safeguarding board tool as your basis for the referral.

**Overall review:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Risks |  |
| Protective factors |  |
| Plan |  |

References

<https://www.hampshirescp.org.uk/toolkits/neglect/threshold-and-indicator-charts/>

<https://www.portsmouthscp.org.uk/professionals/neglect/>

[Neglect Toolkit – Southampton Safeguarding Children Partnership (southamptonscp.org.uk)](https://southamptonscp.org.uk/neglect-toolkit/)