

NEGLECT

*Neglect is the **persistent** failure to meet the child's basic needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may involve a parent or carer falling to:*

- ▶ *Provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (includes exclusion from the home or abandonment)*
- ▶ *Protect the child from physical and mental harm or danger.*
- ▶ *Ensure adequate supervision (includes the use of appropriate care givers)*
- ▶ *Ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.*
- ▶ *It may also include neglect of or unresponsiveness to a child's basic emotional needs.*

Working Together 2013

Markers of Neglect Always Consider the Impact for Child or Young Person and try and see it from their point of view

- Faltering growth Early indicator neglect, weight loss RED
- Obesity Increase risk long term obesity, Type 2 diabetes and decrease life expectancy
- Poor hygiene /Physical Care Bullying at school, inappropriate clothing, food and living conditions
- Dental Caries May need extraction under GA, long term impact poor dental hygiene
- frequent minor injuries ? level of supervision, accidental injury can be fatal
- Developmental delay will impact on schooling, evidence that Speech delay at school entry is associated with worse outcomes
- Attention difficulties May be confused with ADHD, will affect schooling
- Not brought to appointments (DNA) may lead to delay in treating conditions e.g. orthoptics and amblyopia,
- not given prescribed medication as prescribed e.g. Anticonvulsant /poorly controlled epilepsy, insulin /poorly controlled diabetes
- indiscriminate friendliness/social immaturity Increase risk CSE
- Poor supervision/inappropriate adults left in care Risk CSA or exposure to alcohol, illegal substances or violence

Consider Other Issues in Family

- Domestic Violence
- Mental Illness
- Substance misuse

Impact of Neglect on the Developing Brain

- Overdevelopment in areas that control anxiety, affect regulation, hyperactivity
- Deficits in cortical functions e.g. problem solving and limbic area e.g. empathy

What to do if you have concerns

- **Document concerns and the Impact on YP of those concerns**
- **Talk to HV or School Nurse if in school**
- **Discuss concerns with Contact Point or Named or Designated Professionals**
- **Escalate if concerns not**