

# HILLINGDON SAFEGUARDING PARTNERSHIP

## 7-MINUTE BRIEFING

### NEGLECT

#### 7. Practice Implications

- ✓ Be curious and reflective
- ✓ Think family
- ✓ Consider historical concerns
- ✓ Apply Signs of Safety to clearly identify risks and likelihood of harm
- ✓ Be aware of disguised compliance
- ✓ Record accurately
- ✓ Ensure any concerns are shared within and across agencies
- ✓ Check that concerns have been received
- ✓ Remember: assessing the level of **Neglect** is a multi-agency task

#### 1. Why is neglect important?

*Child neglect is the most pervasive form of child abuse in the UK today. It robs children of the childhood they deserve – that is their right – and leaves broken families, dashed aspirations and misery in its wake.*

[Action for children](#)

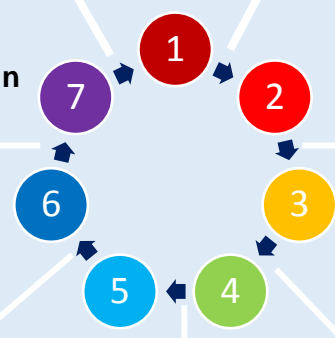
#### 2. Definition

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.

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

[Working together to safeguard children](#)

**Ensure you follow professional advice within specified timescales.**



#### 6. What to do if you suspect neglect?

- ❖ Don't leave it and don't delay it- use [Thresholds Guidance](#)
- ❖ Consult with your safeguarding lead, do you need to make a referral to Early Help/ MASH?
- ❖ Record every Step and re assess

#### 5. Think family

- Identify families at Risk of poor outcomes to Provide support at the earliest Opportunity;
- Meet the full range Of needs within each family you are Supporting or working with;
- Develop services Which can respond effectively to the most challenging families;
- Strengthen the Ability of family members to provide and support To each other.

[Think Family Toolkit](#)

#### 3. What does neglect look like?

- Failure to provide adequate food, clothing and shelter
- Failure to protect from emotional, physical harm and danger
  - Failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment
  - Failure to ensure adequate supervision
  - Substance misuse during pregnancy

#### 4. Vulnerability

- ❖ Poverty
  - ❖ Social isolation
  - ❖ Severe housing issues
- Factors affecting carers:
- Mental health problems
  - Learning disabilities
  - Drug and alcohol misuse
  - Domestic violence
- Factors affecting children:
- Babies born before term
  - Babies with low birth weight
  - Babies born with complex health needs
  - Pre-school aged children and babies
  - Children with disabilities

[DfE](#)