



Focus On...

Local Themes – Neglect

What is neglect? The definition of neglect from Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 is: 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 and development. Neglect in Lancashire It is a priority focus. It is one of the main reasons that multi agency support is provided to families at Early Help levels 2 and 3 and statutory level 4.

The 6 Lancashire priorities

1. Children, including unborn, young people and families being at the heart of everything we do.
2. Continued strategic commitment across partner agencies.
3. Intervene and support at the earliest point possible.
4. Improve awareness, understanding and recognition of neglect in all its forms.
5. Develop and implement effective response and intervention to neglect in all its forms.
6. Evidencing the impact of outcomes of what we have achieved both for individual children and more broadly on the neglect agenda.

The main types of neglect are:

- **Physical neglect** not meeting a child's basic needs, such as food, clothing or shelter; not supervising a child adequately or providing for their safety
- **Educational neglect** failure to ensure a child receives an education
- **Emotional neglect** failing to meet a child's needs for nurture and stimulation, for example by ignoring, humiliating, intimidating or isolating them, witnessing the harm of another
- **Medical neglect** minimising, denying, exaggerating and/ or inducing a child's health needs
- **Nutritional neglect** for example, obesity and failure to thrive and lack of supervision and guidance, for example, monitoring on-line activity or whereabouts when out alone

What may I see?

Poor appearance and hygiene- Being smelly or dirty, being hungry or not given money for food, having unwashed clothes, having the wrong clothing, such as no warm clothes in winter, having frequent untreated nappy rash in infants

Health and development- Anaemia, body issues, such as poor muscle tone or prominent joints, medical or dental issues, missed medical appointments, such as for vaccinations, not given the correct medicines, poor language or social skills, regular illness or infections eg headlice, repeated accidental injuries, often caused by lack of supervision, skin issues, such as sores, rashes, flea bites, scabies or ringworm, thin or swollen tummy, tiredness, untreated injuries, weight or growth issues

Housing and family issues- Living in an unsuitable home environment, such as having no heating, being left alone for a long time, taking on the role of carer for other family members

Change in behaviour- Becoming clingy or aggressive, being withdrawn, depressed or anxious, changes in eating habits, displaying obsessive behaviour, finding it hard to concentrate or take part in activities, missing school, showing signs of self-harm, using drugs or alcohol

Refer to the Lancashire Multi-Agency Neglect Strategy [Lancashire Multi-Agency Neglect Strategy 2022–2024 - Lancashire County Council](#)

Refer to Blackburn with Darwen Think Neglect Booklet [THINK-NEGLECT-BOOKLET-2020.pdf](#)

Complete Neglect E-learning: [Lancashire Safeguarding Partnership Training](#)

