

The impact of Neglect is often cumulative and progresses covertly and gradually. There is therefore a risk that agencies do not intervene early enough to prevent harm. It is essential that all agencies; Health, Education /schools, Police, Early Years professionals, Housing, Voluntary and Community-Based services identify emerging problems and possible unmet needs in collaboration and seek to address them before they become more severe. It is equally important that practitioners remain vigilant to the negative impact of drift and delays and 'start again' syndrome.

The Aberdeenshire Practitioners Neglect Toolkit was commissioned by Aberdeenshire Child Protection Committee and has been developed in Partnership by Services in Aberdeenshire.

The Toolkit is underpinned by the National Neglect Framework [Child Neglect in Scotland: Understanding Causes and Supporting Families, Oct. 2021](#) and builds on single service practice guidance and service expectations with the ambition that it will increase knowledge and support our workforce in recognising, recording and sharing information about neglect in order that we provide a caring, appropriate and timely response to children, young people and their families who have been, or are at risk of persistent neglect.

The toolkit provides a range of practitioner practice tools/materials in the form of guidance documents on the practice considerations and challenges across our diverse workforce when working with neglect

- Identification
- Sharing Information
- Gathering Information
- Assessing
- Analysing
- Responding
- Referring
- Escalation

Toolkit Aims

To support our workforce

- Focus on the lived experience for children, including the negative impacts of adverse childhood experiences on children's wellbeing and outcomes
- Improve the early recognition of neglect to ensure the risk of harm is reduced promptly, leading to increased life chances for children, young people and families
- Have a shared understanding of neglect and the safety, wellbeing and development of children as the overriding priority for all partners in Aberdeenshire
- Improve the collective multi-agency response to providing support to children and young people who may be at risk of neglect at the earliest possible stage, leading to a reduction in the number of children who require a statutory intervention
- Ensure that Aberdeenshire's response to children who are suffering from neglect is timely, robust and consistent

To ensure the effectiveness of service provision

- Evidence based practice will be developed and promoted
- Work with children and young people will be measured by its impact on outcomes
- The views of children and young people and their families will inform the development of effective interventions
- Single and Multi-agency audits will be undertaken by all partners to monitor the effectiveness of interventions. This process will seek evidence that the voice of the child has been taken into account in all assessment, planning and reviews.

Every child and young person has a fundamental right to an adequate standard of living so they reach their full physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social potential (Article 27: United Nations Charter on Rights of the Child (UNCRC)). Our [Children's Services Plan](#) shows the range of family support available from local agencies services and organisations to help children & young people get the right help by the right people at the right time.