



Lancashire Neglect Strategy for Children and families

2022 – 2024



What is neglect?

Neglect is when a child or young person doesn't have their basic needs met by their parent or carer. When a child or young person is neglected it can affect the way they grow, learn and how they behave. Neglect is usually more than a one-off incident. It can build up over time and the child and parent may think it is normal.

Every child or young person needs:

- Clean, warm clothing that fits them
- Enough food and drink to help them grow and be healthy
- Support with their hygiene or a place to wash themselves
- Encouragement, praise and play
- A safe place to live
- Protection from dangerous situations
- Love and care from parents or carers
- Emotional support and attention
- Enough attention given to their health and access to any medication they need
- Online supervision
- A parent or carer who knows where they are when they go out to play

What children and young people say about neglect:

Not taking responsibility

It means overlooking or ignoring someone's needs or wants. Pretending or being forgotten by someone. Not taking care of things.

Feeling alone

Not being there emotionally

Ghost

When no one bothers about you

Why is it important?

If a child or young person is neglected it can affect the way they learn, grow, behave and their relationships with others. When a child or young person is neglected it can lead to them feeling unwell, unsafe or upset. In some situations it may lead to serious injury or harm.

We all have a role to play in spotting the signs of neglect. If you see some of the signs below then it is important to let a professional know. This may be a doctor, health visitor, midwife, teacher, family support worker or social worker.

If you are a child and you are worried about another child being neglected please let a grown up that you can trust know.

Signs to look out for

If you are worried someone you may know is being neglected, there may be some signs to look out for. There may be other signs than the ones below too, if you are worried it's always important to tell someone who can help:

- They are hungry a lot of the time. They may not bring enough lunch to school or are asking other people to share food
- They look like they haven't washed, their clothes aren't clean or they may be dirty or smelly
- Their parents don't know where they are or let them stay out a lot later than other children their age
- They miss lots of school, arrive late or come to school when they are poorly. They may find it hard to concentrate at school
- They are left alone by their parents or carer
- Their house may be cold, dirty or they may not have important things that they need

Contact details

You can request support from Children's Services in Lancashire by phoning 0300 123 6720, or out of hours 0300 123 6722.

