

Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2) – Practitioner Briefing

Welcome to this briefing aims to help practitioners and their managers understand. The messages in this briefing are just as important for those practitioners working with adults who are parents.



Graded Care Profile 2 is an assessment tool which supports practitioners in identifying and assessing neglect. Neglect is the most prevalent form of child maltreatment in the UK and the most common reason for children to be subject to a Child Protection plan. Assessing neglect and its impact can be difficult as it is complex. Use of an evidence based tool aids accurate assessment and planning.

How does GCP2 work? Different aspects of family life are 'graded' on a scale of 1 to 5. Questions are broken down into 4 areas: i) physical, such as quality of food, clothes and health ii) safety, such as how safe the home is and if the child knows about things like road safety iii) emotional, such as the relationship between the carer and child iv) developmental, such as if a child is encouraged to learn and if they are praised for doing something good.

Who can use GCP2? Only a licensed practitioner who has undertaken the GCP2 training can use the GCP2 in evaluating the quality of care (in neglect) and can get access to the home and observe care. This includes for example, social workers, health staff /health visitors, family support workers, teachers and home school link workers.

What is GCP2? An updated practical tool that supports practitioners in measuring the quality of care delivered to a child or children over a period of time. The tool provides a representative view of the current level of care and provides grades for different aspects of care. The grades are based on observations and good quality evidence in the family home.

Key findings from the GCP2 assessment tool for neglect: understanding how the Graded Care Profile 2 supports families and practitioners to achieve change. (NSPCC, Margolis, R. et al (2021))
GCP2 helps practitioners communicate concerns to families to bring about positive change

Assessments using GCP2 can help bring about positive changes for families and capture the voice and lived experience of the child and their family members. Parents' mental health can improve, their help seeking behaviours can increase, and they can develop new skills and have improved relationships with others.

Some children experienced positive changes, such as improvements in behaviour, health and development. Aspects of GCP2 helped practitioners to communicate with families about why there were concerns about their children. The tool's strengths-based approach and "traffic lights" system helped families to identify what they are doing well, understand concerns and see positive changes.

Changes to home environment are often easier for families to implement than changes to parenting behaviours

Parents often found it easier to put in place improvements to their home environment than to change their parenting behaviours.

The way in which practitioners could break down improvements to the home environment – such as regular cleaning and decluttering – made change feel like a manageable task for parents.

Using GCP2 can help practitioners make decisions about cases

Using GCP2 may lead practitioners to keep a case open for longer if they are concerned about the families' need for ongoing support to keep their children safe. It can also help practitioners evidence that a case can be closed without concerns for the welfare of the children.

Change for families is affected by lots of factors

GCP2 is part of a range of assessments and interventions that a family may be receiving all of which may have contributed to the changes that were observed in this study.

The parent-practitioner relationship is key to enabling changes to occur

A positive relationship between the parent and the practitioner who carried out the assessment helped families to engage with the assessment and facilitated positive changes. Parents appreciated practitioners creating time to get to know them and their families before beginning the assessment.

Further information is also on the [NSPCC website](#)

Working with Families - The GCP2 supports practitioners to work with parents/children/young people to highlight strengths/weaknesses and also to identify what needs to change. By working out what parents can do better, it's easier for those working with a family to get them the right support to improve the life of their child.

How effective is GCP2? Practitioners who have used the GCP2 said:

- referrals were clearer and more likely to lead to actions that would support the child
- some practitioners felt it enabled parents to better understand their concerns
- some families were reported to make positive health and lifestyle choices as a result.

Training All practitioners intending to use the GCP2 must complete licensed training. Each local authority area has a GCP2 training programme delivered by licensed GCP2 trainers. Any practitioner who has the training can carry out the GCP2 assessment with a family. Those who have not attended training may still contribute information to support completion of the GCP2. Additional information and resources about the Graded Care Profile 2:

- [Guidance for practitioners](#)
- [Information leaflet for young people](#)
- [Information leaflet for parents](#)
- [GCP2 information leaflet](#)
- [Pan Beds video on the Graded Care Profile](#)

Contacts for training dates & bookings:

- Bedford Borough based practitioners: [CLICK HERE](#)
- Central Beds based practitioners: [CLICK HERE](#)
- Luton Based practitioners: [CLICK HERE](#)

From **Research in Practice** some examples of the impact and improved outcomes of the GCP2:

"I was neglecting my children, there were things on the floor. It made it worse because (my child) crawls and (my social worker) said by you not hoovering up it's all going onto his legs. At first, I thought, yeah, right. Then she started explaining it, she said, look at this area (On the GCP2), look at that area, it started to click, I thought, she's right. Put yourself in his position."

"The GCP2 is good because it has positives and negatives, so my social worker will point out what's going really well for us as well as what isn't going well and she will say things like "You're meeting all your children's medical needs, you're accessing all the right support"

"The child was just stuck in a pram all the time. Where now, she's running up and down the living room, she is coming along great and she's hitting all her milestones."

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