

Principles Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2)

Practitioner Briefing



GCP2 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 and so the use of the evidence based GCP2 aids accurate assessment and planning.

Who should undertake the GCP2 with the family? Only those who have received the GCP2 training and been assessed as competent to undertake assessments using the GCP2. The Pan Bedfordshire Safeguarding Children Partnerships are committed to the GCP2 being used across all agencies. Where there is a multi-agency group of practitioners working with a family, e.g. a Team Around the Family or a Core Group, they may wish to explore who is best placed to use the GCP2, usually the Lead Practitioner. Equally practitioners could do the GCP2 assessment together, either co-working the whole assessment or dividing up the assessment between practitioners.

Principles

- Where neglect is known/suspected a GCP2 should be used across the multiagency partnership, including to support referrals to other agencies.
- Where immediate referral and/or immediate action is required, practitioners may not have had the opportunity to undertake the GCP2 and not having a GCP2 should not preclude a referral being made/accepted.
- The GCP2 supports assessment/intervention in known/suspected neglect backed up with ongoing and sound professional judgement and multi-agency collaboration.
- The GCP2 and its contents should be used in supervision to ensure sound professional judgements are supported in cases of known/suspected neglect.
- The GCP2 should be repeated regularly (e.g. 3 monthly/as agreed in supervision/multi-agencies) to monitor change in parental care given and to support ongoing interventions.
- The GCP2 can be undertaken by one practitioner or more (e.g. in a Core Group).
- Parental consent is required to undertake the GCP2 where the threshold of significant harm has not been met.

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

What are the circumstances for using the GCP2?

- In any agency where there is an 'open case' of suspected/known neglect, this includes in any part of the agency's system e.g. a Looked After Child, Disability services, etc.
- Where a referral about known/suspected neglect is made to Early Help a completed GCP2 should accompany the referral be underway. Parental consent should be given for the GCP2 assessment. Where parents do not consent, this should be noted and contribute to the ongoing assessment and analysis of the child's circumstances. When there is no consent, the referrer's knowledge of the family should be used alongside the GCP2 to continue to assess and offer the most effective response to safeguard the child(ren) and support the family.
- Where a referral about known/suspected neglect is being made to Children's Social Care then a completed GCP2 should accompany the referral or be underway. Where an urgent referral is made without a GCP2, the referrer will undertake or contribute to the GCP2 following referral. Where parents do not consent to the GCP2 being done, the referrer will support the completion of the GCP2 using their knowledge of the family - as long as this is made clear in the records.
- Child Protection Conferences where a child:
 - is placed on a Child Protection Plan under the category of neglect
 - is placed on a Child Protection Plan under a different category but where neglect is known/suspected
 - has not had a completed GCP2 done for known/suspected neglect in previous 3 months.



Can the GCP2 be done retrospectively? No. The GCP2 is used to measure and assess the current care being given to a child. It is important to record the dates during which the GCP2 is completed because it is recognised that care can fluctuate over time. Clarifying the current level of care means that when the scoring is repeated, it can provide evidence about whether there have been improvements or deterioration in the level of care for a child.

Can one GCP2 be completed for more than one child? It is intended that each child in the family has their own GCP2 undertaken. This recognises that each child in the same family are at different ages/stages of development and therefore the care their parents need to provide for each will need to be different. Even where children are at very similar age/stage, parents may provide differing types of care to each child. However, it is possible for sections of the GCP2 for more than one child to be undertaken at the same time, e.g. observation of the parent offering care to all their children is being undertaken.

Can some parts of the GCP2 and not others be undertaken? The GCP2 measures care given to a child across the whole continuum of their needs. It is this that supports planning and interventions, so practitioners are clear where the strengths/concerns are in the care given. As such the whole GCP2 needs to be undertaken to ensure there is a clear and balanced view about how the children's needs are being met. Naturally, if there are aspects which are not relevant for a particular parent or child, then that area should be left out. Sometimes a practitioner will only be able to contribute to one or a few parts of the GCP2 e.g. midwife but it is important that they can contribute their knowledge to the completion of the GCP2. Then other agencies can contribute to other areas of the GCP2 more relevant to them and their role with the family.

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](#) - [Pan Bedfordshire Child Protection Procedures](#)

Contacts for training dates & bookings:

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