**Whatever your role whether you are a paramedic, librarian, housing officer or working in leisure services you may come into contact with children, young people and their families where you are left feeling concerned or worried about what you have seen or heard. This Neglect Screening Tool asks you to consider a few simple questions to help you think about what it is like for this child or young person living in this family and consider if further action is needed. You can use the tool as a basis to talk through with your Manager or Safeguarding Lead in your organisation in order to decide the next step you or your manager may need to take or to make a referral as described below.**

**Pan Bedfordshire Neglect Screening Tool Briefing**

**What is Neglect? The definition provided by** [**Working Together 2018**](https://www.workingtogetheronline.co.uk/) **states that neglect 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 or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:**

1. **Provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment);**
2. **Protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger;**
3. **Ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care- givers);**
4. **Ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.**

**It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child’s basic emotional needs.**

**The impact of neglect on children and young people is often cumulative, advancing gradually and subtly so as not perceived as neglect and therefore there is a risk that agencies do not intervene early enough to prevent harm. It is important that all practitioners identify emerging problems and potential unmet needs and seek to address them as early as possible. Determining what constitutes a ‘persistent failure’, or ‘adequate clothing’ or ‘adequate supervision’ remains a matter of professional judgement. Being clear about what the child’s daily lived experiences and the possible harm that may arise will allow for preventative safeguarding, rather than waiting for the impact on the child or young person to become irreversible.**

**The purpose of this tool is to identify signs of neglect at an early stage and seek support for the child, young person and their family (with their** [**consent**](https://bedfordscb.proceduresonline.com/files/consent_summary.pdf) **if possible) and help you discuss your concerns with someone who has more knowledge about safeguarding children, young people and families.**

**Please discuss with your Manager/Safeguarding Lead to consider if a referral should be made to the following Childrens Services**

* [**Bedford Borough Integrated Front Door (IFD)**](https://www.bedford.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/children-and-families/safeguarding-children-harm-and-child-protection-0#:~:text=If%20you%20think%20the%20child,call%20the%20police%20on%20999.&text=If%20you%20are%20unable%20to,300%208123%20(out%20of%20hours)) **- 01234 718700**
* [**Central Bedfordshire Access and Referral Hub**](https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/11/children_and_young_people/112/child_protection_-_safeguarding_children_and_young_people) **- 0300 3008585**
* [**Luton Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)**](https://m.luton.gov.uk/Page/Show/Health_and_social_care/safeguarding/safeguarding_children/Pages/default.aspx) **- 01582 547653**
* **Pan Bedfordshire Emergency Duty Team - 0300 300 8123 (out of hours)**

**This Neglect Screening Tool does NOT replace your own or the** [**Pan Bedfordshire**](https://bedfordscb.proceduresonline.com/index.html) **safeguarding procedures and in cases where you are concerned that a child or young person has been or is at risk of significant and immediate harm then a referral should be made immediately to one of the above children’s services including the information below. The following form is available on the** [**Pan Bedfordshire Procedures**](https://bedfordscb.proceduresonline.com/index.html)

**Pan Bedfordshire Neglect Screening Tool**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Date of completion;** | **Name and role of person completing the form:** |

**Only complete the sections where you are able to evidence what you have seen and/or heard.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Any details you have of the child, young person, parent or carer? For example; names, ages, dob, home address, school attended or physical description?** |  | |
|  | **Detail of your concerns, please describe what you have seen and why you are concerned** | **Is the parent or carer aware of your concerns?**  **YES/NO** |
| **Does the child or young person’s presentation concern you? For example, unkempt, obese underweight, rotting teeth.** |  |  |
| **Are you concerned about the child or young person’s behaviour you have observed? For example, risk taking, anxious, avoidant, socially unresponsive.** |  |  |
| **Is the child or young person being brought to all their appointments? (e.g., GP, Dental)** |  |  |
| **Are pets/animals sufficiently cared for? Do they pose a level of risk?** |  |  |
| **Are there any vulnerable adults living within the household?** |  |  |
| **Are there stair gates, electricity point covers, unattended prescribed medications/alcohol/drugs and/or, cleaning substances, baby equipment?** |  |  |
| **Would you describe the family home conditions as poor and unhygienic? For example, no bedding, holes in walls/doors, animal excrement, piles of washing.** |  |  |
| **Any observations the child, young person or adults in the family home in regard to their reading or writing ability, toys, books and other simulation?** |  |  |

**Discussion with manager - Key points:**