

Neglect - Partnership Mandated Approach

From the 12th of January 2026

Tackling Neglect Across the Safeguarding Partnership

Across the multi-agency safeguarding partnership, there is a shared agreement that tackling neglect is a key priority. Neglect continues to emerge as a significant theme across partnership activity, and partners have recognised the need for stronger, shared frameworks to support consistent identification, assessment, and response.

Over the past year as a partnership, we have completed several rapid reviews where children have died in circumstances which featured neglectful conditions.

The Neglect Toolkit has been co-created with multi agency practitioners and iteratively developed to ensure it provides a clear, consistent, and evidence-informed approach to understanding and responding to neglect. This work is intended to ensure that collective effort and resources are used to best effect, enabling partners to target and tackle neglect in a coordinated way line with all partners requirements under Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023. [Working together to safeguard children 2023: statutory guidance](#)

From 12th January 2026, the safeguarding partnership is mandating the use of The Neglect Toolkit as the default approach across all agencies and services.

Mandatory Expectations

- Where a partner agency seeks the support of another agency in relation to worries about the impact of neglect on a child, any referrals between partners must be accompanied by the completion of the neglect toolkit.
- Where a referral is submitted to the Nottinghamshire MASH without the neglect toolkit being completed the receiving agency (police, health, social care) will speak directly to the refer about the reason for the lack of neglect toolkit. The aim of the discussion is to be able to reach a decision about the immediate safety of the child or whether a more informed decision can be made by the completion of the toolkit as part of accepting the referral.
- In line with our priority as a partnership to improve our practice around neglect, the effective use of the toolkit will form part of the performance report into the MASH governance board, looking specifically for the relevant designated safeguarding lead officer for the agency concerned to ensure good partnership working.



- All children open to the Nottinghamshire integrated council children services across (social care and family help) where neglect is a concern to have a completed neglect toolkit by the end of January 2026. [Child and Young Person's Neglect Toolkit](#)
- Guidance on using the toolkit [guid-practitioners-neglect-toolkit.pdf](#)

Where professionals are unsure about the level of concern, completion of the Neglect Toolkit, or appropriate next steps, advice and support should be sought from their Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Safeguarding Partner Responsibilities

In line with Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023, the safeguarding partners are **jointly responsible** for providing strategic direction, enabling effective information sharing, assuring practice, and improving outcomes for children.

We are asking that across the Safeguarding Partnership you also refocus on neglect within your organisation.

Supporting information on Neglect

- [Protecting children from neglect | NSPCC Learning](#).
- [Podcast: recognising and responding to child neglect | NSPCC Learning](#)
- Neglect animation for professionals : [Recognising and Responding to Neglect](#)
- Neglect animation for parents/carers and any members of the public : [Raising awareness about Neglect](#)
- Nottingham and Nottingham procedures [Neglect](#)

Signed on behalf of The Nottinghamshire Strategic Leadership Group

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