Learning from a Rapid Review

A recent IOWSCP Rapid Review highlighted the importance of recognising and responding to neglect and the impact of cumulative harm. Neglect often develops gradually over time and can become normalised by both families and professionals. Practitioners are encouraged to remain curious and consider the long-term impact of unmet needs on a child's health, development, emotional wellbeing and life chances.

When a child has reduced educational engagement, and is Electively Home Educated (EHE), or is not regularly attending school, practitioners should ensure that educational engagement is considered as part of a wider assessment of the child's lived experience. While EHE itself is not a safeguarding concern, reduced visibility of a child may make it more difficult to identify emerging or ongoing neglect. It is important to consider whether unmet educational, emotional, developmental, medical or nutritional needs form part of a wider pattern of cumulative harm.

Key practice points

- → Look beyond the condition of the home and consider the child's day-to-day lived experience.
- → Consider the impact of missed education alongside other indicators of neglect.
- → Use chronologies to identify patterns, persistence and escalation of concerns over time.
- → Seek the child's voice and understand their daily routines, experiences and unmet needs.
- → Use professional curiosity and challenge where concerns are not being addressed.
- → Escalate concerns using the Working Together to Resolve Professional Differences (escalation policy). This should be used when you are:
    - ⇨ Concerned or worried about a decision or practice relating to a child you are working with, and;
    - ⇨ This might result in the child being at risk of harm, and;
    - ⇨ You have raised your concern in established ways such as a child in need meeting or other multi agency meetings considering the safeguarding and welfare of a child and your concern has not been resolved.

Threshold Chart

Isle of Wight Thresholds Chart

Threshold Pathway Guidance Document

Neglect Toolkit Resources

All practitioners should routinely use the Neglect Toolkit.

These tools should support your assessment, analysis, planning and intervention, helping to identify and respond to all forms of neglect, including:

- Day in my life tools
- Educational neglect guidance
- Communication support and practical ideas for engaging with children
- Children with additional needs (including complex needs and disabilities
- Neglect Indicators (interactive chart)

Useful resources

- Recognising and responding to the impact of cumulative harm
- Professionals Meeting Guidance on when to call a meeting
- Practice Principles for the completion of chronologies
- Elective Home Education multi agency roles and responsibilities

Training

Practitioners are encouraged to access IOWSCP training, including:

- An introduction to child abuse linked to faith and belief
- Understanding cumulative harm and preventing the normalisation of neglect
- Understanding, identifying and responding to neglect

National Learning

"Why did it take so long to respond?" – Child neglect: A thematic analysis (The child safeguarding practice review panel)

Neglect: learning from case reviews Summary of key issues and learning for improved practice around neglect (NSPCC)

The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel Learning Hub: Neglect

The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel Learning Hub: Black, Asian and Mixed Heritage children