

Background:

Published case reviews highlight that professionals face a big challenge in identifying & taking timely action on neglect. This briefing is based on case reviews published since 2014 where neglect was a key factor. It pulls together the learning contained in the published reports and stresses that professionals from all agencies must be able to recognise both physical and emotional neglect, understand the impact of cumulative and long term effects of neglect and take timely action to safeguard children and young people.

What to do?

- Take neglect seriously,
- Understand roles & thresholds,
- Use the Kingston & Richmond SCP Neglect toolkit
- Articulate & share concerns with other professionals & your manager,
- Challenge/escalate if necessary,
- Update your Neglect knowledge, book on to Neglect & bitesize Neglect toolkit training,

[Learning from SCRs NSPCC](https://kingstonandrichmondsafeguardingchildrenpartnership.org.uk/practitioners/what-is-child-abuse-and-neglect-113/neglect-128.php)

<https://kingstonandrichmondsafeguardingchildrenpartnership.org.uk/practitioners/what-is-child-abuse-and-neglect-113/neglect-128.php>

[Troubled Teens Report](https://www.londoncp.co.uk/chapters/neglect.html)

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Questions:

Is the child at risk of **significant harm**?

What is **daily life** like for the child?

What is the **impact** on the child?

How **have concerns been raised** with the family?

How has **information** been shared?

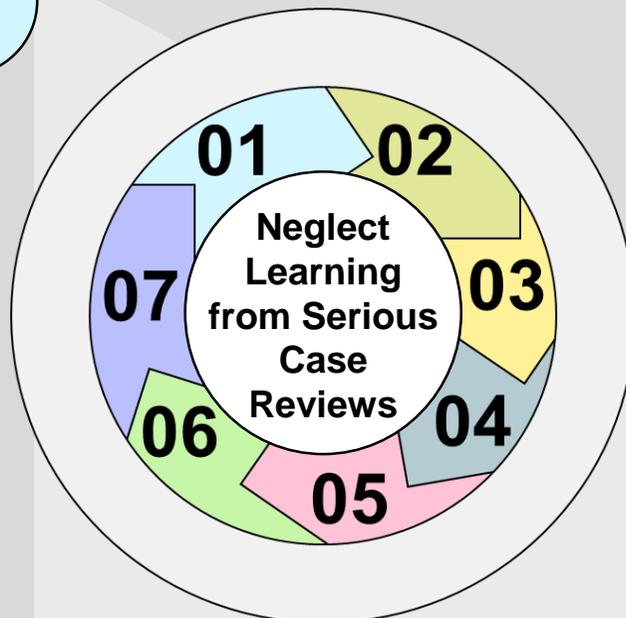
What is the plan and **what difference** is it making?

Are there signs of **disguised compliance**?

Why it matters:

Neglect is a serious form of harm. It can be life threatening & should be treated with as much urgency as other forms of child abuse. Both families and professionals can become overwhelmed and demoralised by issues of neglect. Children may experience repeated unsuccessful attempts by professionals to try and improve the situation.

Neglect is a factor in 60% of serious case reviews



- **Be aware of children who are more vulnerable to neglect** – new born babies, premature babies, babies with ongoing health needs & teenagers.
- **Monitor & understand the significance of missed medical appointments, record as was not brought**
- **Pay attention to accidents and injuries** - they may indicate a lack of supervision or living in an unsafe home.
- **Have the confidence & knowledge to effectively assess parental capability to change** - be clear with parents about what needs to change & by when & respectfully challenge if they fail to follow formal agreements

- **Focus on the need to improve the child's daily lived experience.** If improvements are not sustained, professionals must decide whether legal proceedings are needed to protect the child.

- **See the bigger picture & understand the long term impact of neglect**
- **Use Neglect toolkit & staff supervision to avoid case drift**
- **Provide early evidence based assessment & intervention**
- **Undertake robust and comprehensive assessments**



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