

SIGNPOSTS TO NEGLECT



This list is for you to make sense of what you see and hear and which **OVER A PERIOD OF TIME** may constitute **NEGLECT**.

CHILD

Health and Presentation

- Non organic failure to thrive
- Poor weight gain (improvement when away from home)
- Unmet medical needs
- Untreated headlice/other infestations
- Frequent attendance at accident or emergency and/or frequent hospital admissions
- Tired or depressed child
- Poor hygiene
- Poor clothing

Emotional and Behavioural Development

- Development delay/special needs
- Under stimulated
- Overactive/aggressive
- Soiling and wetting (according to age)
- Running away from home
- Substance misuse
- Offending behaviour, including stealing food
- Teenage pregnancy

Family and Social Relationships

- High criticism/low warmth
- Excluded by family
- Sibling violence
- Isolated child
- Attachment disorders/seeking comfort from strangers
- Left unattended/or to care for other children
- Left to wander alone day or night
- Constantly late to school/late being collected
- Not wanting to go home from school
- Non attendance at school/nursery
- Frequent name changes

ENVIRONMENT

Home and Environmental Considerations

- Poor housing condition
- Overcrowding
- Lack of water, heating, sanitation
- No access to washing machine
- Piles of dirty washing
- Little or no adequate clean bedding/furniture
- Little or no food in cupboards
- Human and/or animal excrement
- Uncared for animals
- Referrals to environmental health
- Unsafe environment
- Rural isolation

CARER/S

Emotional Warmth

- Unrealistic expectations of child
- Inability to put child's needs first
- Name calling/degrading remarks
- Lack of appropriate affection
- Violence within the home
- Partner resenting non-biological child
- Failure to provide basic care

Stability

- Frequent changes of partners
- Poor family support/inappropriate support
- Lack of consistent relationship
- Frequent moves
- Enforced unemployment
- Financial pressures/debt

Guidance and Boundaries

- Poor boundary setting
- Inconsistent attitudes
- Continuously failing appointments
- Refusing help and services
- Failure to provide safe environment
- Inappropriate language

Social Presentation

- Aggressive/threatening behaviour towards professionals and volunteers
- Disguised compliance
- Low self esteem
- Lack of self care

Health

- Mental ill health
- Substance misuse
- Learning difficulties
- Post-natal depression
- History of parental abuse or poor parenting

PROFESSIONALS

Is this happening?

- No ease of access to whole house
- Fear of violence and aggression
- Failure to seek support and advice as appropriate
- Failure to record concern and initial impact
- Inability to retain objectivity
- Unwitting collusion with family
- Failure to see beyond conditions in the home
- Child's view is lost
- Geographical stereotyping
- Minimising concern
- Poor networking
- Inability to see what is/is not acceptable
- Familiarity breeding contempt
- Failure to make connections with information available from other services