



# Protecting Vulnerable People Newsletter

Issue 3 September 2015

**Take a moment to read this information and think if you know a child who may be suffering neglect and abuse.**

Message from Detective Chief Inspector Chris Naughton: Dorset Police Child Abuse Investigation Teams and the Safeguarding Referral Unit along with our partners in Children's Services, investigate cases of child neglect daily.

There are necessary behaviours a caregiver must provide a child in order for the child to develop and flourish physically socially, and emotionally. I want all Dorset's children to have those opportunities.

Everyone, teachers, GPs, parents and other adults have a responsibility to spot the signs of abuse and act.

Please take a moment to read the information on this page and think if you know a child who may be suffering neglect and abuse.

If you're worried about a child being abused in any way, you can report it to Dorset police on 101 or if a child is in immediate danger on 999. We want to hear from you no matter how big or small you think your worry is.



Message from Detective Chief Inspector (DCI) Chris Naughton - Child Protection & Safeguarding

## Advice about child neglect



**Neglect means not being looked after properly and the ongoing failure to meet a child's basic needs. A child may be left hungry or dirty, without adequate clothing, shelter, supervision, medical or healthcare. Parents or carers should make sure children have these things.**

Children also shouldn't have to spend a lot of time looking after other people in your family without getting any support from an adult. If a child

has a disability they should also be supported in whatever extra ways they need. A child may be put in danger or not protected from physical or emotional harm.

They may not get the love, care and attention they need from their parents. Neglect is the most common reason for a child to be the subject of a child protection plan or on a child protection register in the UK.

It happens when parents or carers can't or won't meet a child's needs. Sometimes this is because they don't have the skills or support needed, and sometimes it's due to other problems such as mental health issues, drug and alcohol problems or poverty. Although professionals may be worried about a child, it's not always easy to identify neglect. There's often no single sign that a child or family need help. So, professionals look for a pattern of ongoing neglect before they step in.

If you feel like something's not right and are worried a child may be neglected, try asking yourself these questions ...

1. Are they often hungry, thirsty or cold?
2. Do you feel that their clothes don't get washed often enough or that they fit badly? Do you feel like their shoes don't fit and don't keep their feet dry?
3. Does the child appear to be dirty or smelling bad?
4. Have you witnessed parents or carers refusing to help a child when they are ill or hurt?
5. Do you see a child going to school without the important things they need?
6. Do you feel like their family home is often dirty or unsafe in some way?
7. Do you know a child who gets left alone for a long time without knowing when their parents or carers are coming back? If this happens, do they get left without enough food to eat or without clean clothes to wear?
8. Do you often have to remind a parent or carer about the important things that their child needs?
9. If there are medicines a child needs to take, are their parents or carers forgetting or refusing to give them at the right times?
10. If a child has a disability, do you feel like their parents and carers aren't giving them the extra help they need?

## Being looked after properly means that a child should have these things:

- Clothes that are clean and warm and shoes that fit and keep them dry.
- Enough to eat and drink.
- Protection from dangerous situations.
- Somewhere warm, dry and comfortable to sleep.
- Help when they are ill or have been hurt.
- Affection from parents or carers.
- Support with their education.
- Other things they might need to keep them healthy, like medications.



## Types of neglect:

### Physical Neglect

Failing to provide for a child's basic needs such as food, clothing or shelter. Failing to adequately supervise a child, or provide for their safety.

### Educational Neglect

Failing to ensure a child receives an education

### Emotional Neglect

Failing to meet a child's needs for nurture and stimulation, perhaps by ignoring, humiliating, intimidating or isolating them. It's often the most difficult to prove.

### Medical Neglect

Failing to provide appropriate health care, including dental care and refusal of care or ignoring medical recommendations.



## Helplines



Anybody who has concerns about a child being a possible victim of online grooming, exploitation or abuse is encouraged to contact Dorset Police on 101 or 999 in an emergency or if a crime is ongoing.

If you believe anybody is being abused or exploited please do not hesitate to contact us and report your concerns.

**Barnardos:** <http://www.barnardos.org.uk>

### Local Authority Children's Social Care:

Bournemouth: 01202 456900

Poole: 01202 735046

Dorset: <http://www.dorsetforyou.com/393713>

**NSPCC:** 0808 800 5000

[www.stopitnow.org.uk](http://www.stopitnow.org.uk)

**UK safer internet centre website:** [www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk)



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