

Southwark Schools Safeguarding Forum: Neglect Toolkit

Thursday 4th December 2025

Safeguarding
in Schools

Southwark
Council

Southwark's Neglect Strategy & Toolkit

“SEE. LISTEN. AND BELIEVE ME .”

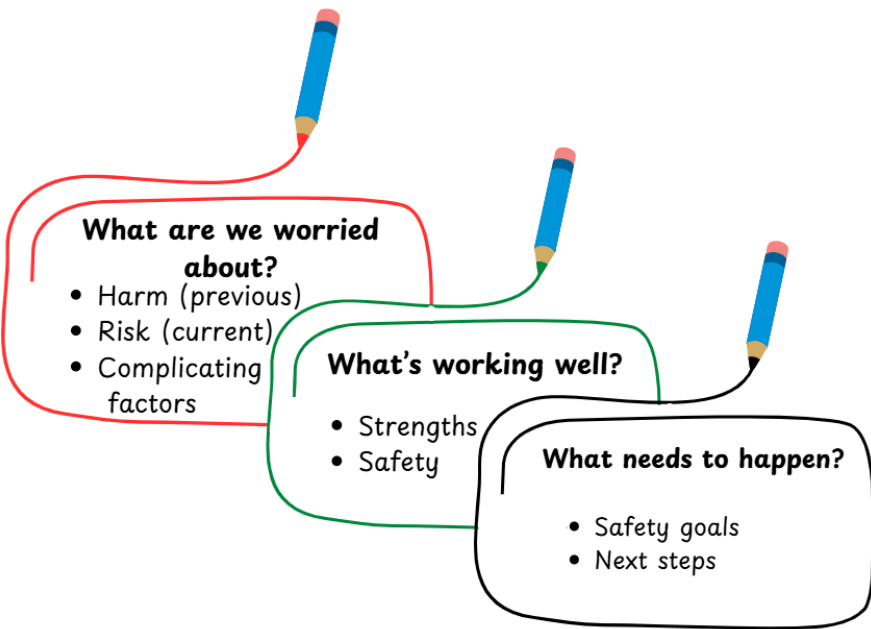
Strategy:

- Launched March 2025
- Approach to tackling neglect and ensuring that all children experience good enough care.
- A way to join hands between professional agencies and families, which children at the centre.
- Parents have shared they don't understand the meaning of 'neglect' – the strategy provides a universal definition & tool for how to address neglect.

Toolkit:

- Adapted from the Lambeth Neglect Toolkit
- A multi-agency tool to assist professionals identify and assess children (likely to be) experiencing neglect.
- A way to reflect on the child's circumstances, put concerns into context and identify strengths – to inform decision-making, assessments, and planning (including gathering evidence for a MASH referral)

Using the neglect toolkit



- Your toolbox:
- Neglect Toolkit
 - Skills:
 - Compassion
 - Collaboration
 - Understanding of poverty
 - Intersectionality
 - Chronology
 - TAF/C

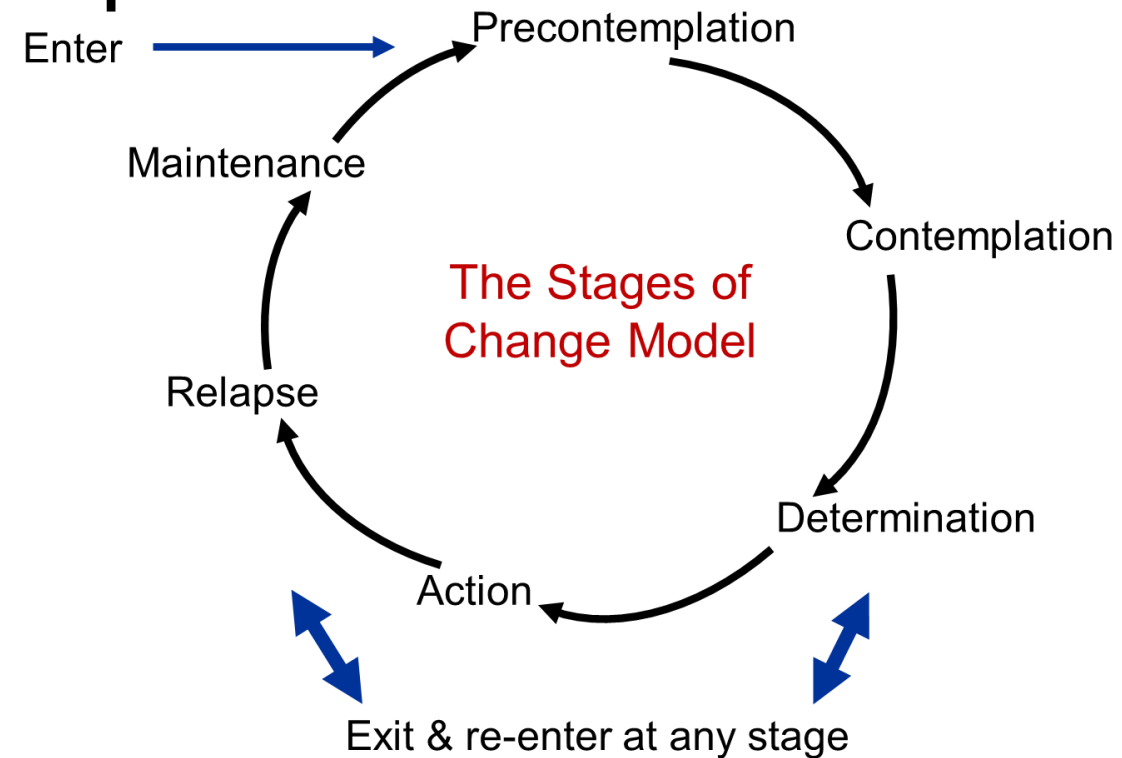


The Neglect Toolkit

- 5 areas of need for consideration, each with sub-domains
- Each to be scored 1-4
(1 = child focused care; 4 = child's needs not considered)
- + section to record **evidence & examples of impact** on the child

1. **Physical care**
2. **Health**
3. **Safety and supervision**
4. **Love and care**
5. **Stimulation and education.**

+ **Parental motivation to change**



Sub-domains and scoring

Pg	Development Need	Score				Impact on child/young person – evidence and examples
	AREA 1: PHYSICAL CARE	1	2	3	4	
13	Food					
14	Quality of housing					
15	Stability of housing					
16	Child's clothing					
17	Animals					
18	Hygiene					
	AREA 2: HEALTH					
19	Safe sleeping arrangements and co-sleeping for babies					
20	Seeking advice and intervention					
21	Disability and illness					
	AREA 3: SAFETY and SUPERVISION					
22	Safety awareness and features					
23	Supervision of the child					
24	Handling of baby/response to baby					
25	Care by other adults					
26	Responding to adolescents					
27	Traffic awareness and in car safety					
	AREA 4: LOVE and CARE					
28	Parent/carer's attitude to child, warmth, care					
29	Boundaries					
30	Adult arguments and violence					
31	Young caring					
32	Positive values					
33	Adult behaviour					
34	Substance misuse					
	AREA 5: STIMULATION and EDUCATION					
35	Unborn					
36	0-2 years					
37	2-5 years					
38	School					
39	Sport and Leisure					
40	Friendships					
41	Addressing bullying					
42	PARENTAL MOTIVATION FOR CHANGE					
	Total in each area					

What actions are to be taken as a result of completing this checklist?

Show toolkit guidance



Starting difficult conversations

How would you introduce
the Neglect Toolkit
to a parent / carer?



The Multi-Agency Child Neglect Tool

Southwark Safeguarding Children Partnership - [Southwark Safeguarding Partnership](#)

[SSCP Neglect Strategy](#) [SSCP Neglect Toolkit](#)

[Child abuse general guidance | Southwark Council](#)

Helpful Links:

[Children and family hubs | Southwark Council](#)

[Southwark's Family Information Directory • Children, Young People & Families](#)

[Homepage The activity and information hub for young people in Southwark| OneHub Southwark](#)

[Home | Southwark Local Offer](#)