If you have concerns around any of the areas below, speak to your supervisor.

**Family & Environmental Factors**

- **Housing**: Dirty/wet bed, inappropriate sleeping arrangements, cluttered rooms, no space to play, dangerous rubbish or animal excrement in house or garden, basic amenities unavailable e.g. water/electricity.
- **Income**: Not enough money to buy basic provisions - food, clothing etc.
- **Family’s Social Integration**: Inadequate child care arrangements, parent’s job has adverse impact on child/YP.
- **Employment**: Isolation from local community, neighbour disputes.
- **Family History and Functioning**: Domestic violence, substance misuse, mental health issues, parent’s own bad experience of parenting, neglect within wider family, parents fail to recognise concerns or needs of child/YP.
- **Wider Family**: Excessive alcohol/smoking/drug use in house, evidence of substance mis-use, child/YP has contact with family members who are known to present a risk.

This tool has been developed for use in universal services to aid recognition of factors which may indicate a child or young person (YP) is suffering from **NEGLECT**. These statements are based on the ‘Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need, Department of Health 2000’.

Once concerns about neglect are identified, practitioners need to make judgement about the level of intervention. You should discuss this with your supervisor/manager and evaluate the seriousness of the concerns and decide what the appropriate response should be.
If you have concerns around any of the areas below, speak to your supervisor

**Child/young person’s Developmental Needs**

- Parent’s inappropriate response to needs/distress, child/yp does not look to parent for comfort, seeks comfort from strangers, soiling, wetting, destructive behaviour, running away, aggressive, indiscriminate friendliness, withdrawn, self-harming, significant change in behaviour

**Emotional and Behavioural**

- Over or under-weight, growth and development outside expected range, unmanaged or untreated health conditions/dental care, missed health appointments, frequent accidents or injuries

**Health**

- Limited access to toys/books/learning opportunities, no playing with parents and/or other children, erratic or non-school/nursery attendance, late for school, arrives hungry/tired/irritable/inappropriately clothed, educational under-achievement, significant change in educational performance

**Education**

- Unusual relationship with parents and other family members, lack of affection from parents/siblings, not encouraged to form friendships, parental lack of pride in the child/yp’s achievements

**Family & Social Relationships**

- Poor sense of self-worth/self-esteem/self-awareness, poor social relationships, feelings of not belonging within peer group/family/wider community, lack of self-confidence, lack of own clothes & belongings

**Identity**

- Not walking, or talking, unable to dress or feed him/herself, dis-interest in self-care

**Self Care Skills**

- Unsuitable clothing for age/gender, unkempt, dirty, smelly

**Social Presentation**

Where a child/young person has a disability the additional factors below may be indicators of neglect:

- Not getting enough help with feeding
- Poor toileting arrangements
- Lack of stimulation
- Unjustified and/or excessive use of restraint
- Rough handling, extreme behaviour modification e.g. deprivation of liquid, medication, food or clothing
- Unwillingness to try to learn a child’s means of communication
- Ill-fitting equipment e.g. calipers, sleep boards, inappropriate splinting

**Parenting Capacity**

- Lack of food, home dirty/cold, inadequate clothing, poor personal hygiene, child has caring responsibilities

**Basic Care**

- Inadequate supervision, unsuitable carers, hazardous environment, dangerous pets, contact with unsafe adults, drug or alcohol misuse, allowed to engage in dangerous or delinquent behaviour

**Ensuring Safety**

- No age appropriate toys/activities, left for long periods in pushchair/highchair/cot/in front of TV

**Stimulation**

- Left with many different carers, people they don’t know, lack of support through family/life changes

**Stability**

- Inappropriate boundaries & discipline, inconsistent discipline, not knowing right from wrong, issues not addressed, withdrawal of food/drink used as punishment

**Guidance & Boundaries**

- Little or no comfort/affection/praise or encouragement, unrealistic expectations, parents are aggressive/violent towards each other and/or others

**Emotional Warmth**