

NEGLECT FACTSHEET



What is it?

Neglect occurs when a person deliberately withholds, or fails to provide, suitable and adequate care and support needed by another adult. It may be through a lack of knowledge or awareness, or through a decision not to act when they know the adult in their care needs help. Neglect can be physical or emotional abuse.

Signs and symptoms of neglect

- Poor heating, lighting, food or fluids
- Poor physical condition of the person such as ulcers, bedsores
- The person's clothing and body seem to be scruffy and neglected
- Failure to give prescribed medication or get appropriate medical care
- Apparent unexplained weight loss
- Failure to provide appropriate privacy and dignity
- Carers reluctant to accept contact from health or social care professionals
- Refusal to allow visitors to see the person
- Inappropriate or inadequate clothing, or being kept in night clothes during the day
- Sensory deprivation - not allowed to have access to glasses, hearing aids or other communication aids
- The person thought to be at risk has no method of calling for assistance

Examples of neglect

Can include:

- Regularly leaving the person unattended for long periods or abandoning them
- Lack of care including food, warmth, medication and access to medical treatment
- Failing to attend to physical needs such as toileting, dressing and washing
- Failing to provide access to appropriate health, social care or education services
- Refusal to allow visitors to see the person
- Inappropriate or inadequate clothing, or being kept in night clothes during the day
- Sensory deprivation - not allowed to have access to glasses, hearing aids or other communication aids
- The person thought to be at risk has no method of calling for assistance

The factors referenced may not mean that neglect is present but may warrant further enquiry, professional curiosity or potentially a care needs assessment.

Report a Concern

If you believe someone may be at risk of neglect or any other abuse/neglect raise a concern by completing a [referral form](#) or contact Knowsley MASH team on Tel: **0151 443 2600**.

If you believe a person is in immediate risk of harm, you should contact the police by ringing 999.