

SELF-NEGLECT & HOARDING FACTSHEET

Did you know?

There is no single operational definition of self-neglect.

The Department of Health (2016) defines it as, '... a wide range of behaviour neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings and includes behaviour such as hoarding'.

For further information, please click here: [Knowsley's Self-Neglect and Hoarding Toolkit](#).

The three distinct areas that are characteristics of self-neglect

- **Lack of self-care** - this includes neglect of one's personal hygiene, nutrition and hydration, or health, to an extent that may endanger safety or wellbeing
- **Lack of care of one's environment** - this includes situations that may lead to domestic squalor or elevated levels of risk in the domestic environment (e.g., health or fire risks caused by hoarding)
- **Refusal of assistance that might alleviate these issues**. This might include, for example, refusal of care services in either their home or a care environment or of health assessments or interventions, even if previously agreed, which could potentially improve self-care or care of one's environment

Self-neglect

Self-Neglect is a behavioural condition in which an individual neglects to attend to their basic needs such as personal hygiene, or tending appropriately to any medical conditions, or keeping their environment safe to carry out what is seen as usual activities of daily living.

It can occur because of, mental health issues, personality disorders, substance abuse, dementia, advancing age, social isolation, and cognitive impairment or through personal choice. It can be triggered by trauma and significant life events and can affect people from all backgrounds.

Hoarding

Hoarding is an excessive collection and retention of any material to the point that it impedes day to day functioning.

Hoarding is considered a significant problem if:

- The person thinks it is a problem
- The person is unable to use their kitchen or bathroom and cannot access rooms
- The clutter is causing significant distress or negatively affecting the quality of life of the person or their family

Report a Concern

If you believe someone may be at risk of self-neglect/hoarding 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.