

1	What is Neglect? Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, resulting in actual or potential harm to their health, wellbeing or development. While neglect often develops over time, a single incident can also cause significant harm. Neglect may occur alongside wider family and community pressures and can indicate the need for support, protection, or both.
2	Recognising the Signs of Neglect Neglect can affect every aspect of a child's life. Signs may include unmet physical needs, poor supervision, missed healthcare appointments, low school attendance, unmet emotional needs, developmental concerns, or a lack of safety and stability. Practitioners should consider the child's lived experience and the cumulative impact of concerns over time.
3	The Impact of Neglect Neglect can have serious and lasting consequences for children. It may affect physical health, emotional wellbeing, attachment, learning and development. The impact can begin before birth, affect children of all ages and, without effective intervention, continue into adulthood. Early recognition and timely support can significantly improve outcomes.
4	How Do We Know Neglect Is an Issue in Fife? Evidence from Learning Reviews, Child Protection Register data, quality assurance activity, audits and practitioner feedback consistently identifies neglect as a continuing issue affecting children and families in Fife. Local learning highlights the importance of recognising cumulative harm, maintaining professional curiosity and responding early to emerging concerns.
5	Neglect as a Fife Child Protection Priority The Fife Child Protection Committee Improvement Plan identifies neglect as a key multi-agency priority. Our focus is on strengthening recognition, assessment, intervention, learning and partnership working to improve outcomes for children. Addressing neglect requires a coordinated response across all agencies, with children remaining at the centre of decision-making
6	What Are We Doing in Fife? Fife has developed a multi-agency Neglect Strategy supported by the CPC Neglect Hub. The Hub provides access to guidance, assessment tools, practice resources, learning review findings, research and the developing Neglect Toolkit. This work aims to promote consistent, evidence-informed practice and support earlier identification and intervention.
7	Learning and Development Opportunities The CPC Neglect Hub provides access to the Neglect Strategy, guidance, assessment tools, resources and learning materials. Online Neglect webinars run regularly throughout the year, alongside Multi-Agency Neglect training delivered four times per year to build confidence and consistency in practice. For further information please see: CPC Neglect Hub / Training