

## Principles

- Where neglect is known/suspected, GCP2 should be used across the multi-agency partnership, including to support referrals to other agencies.
- Where immediate referral or immediate action is required, practitioners may not have had the opportunity to undertake the GCP2 and not having a GCP2 should not preclude a referral being made/accepted.
- The GCP2 supports assessment/intervention in known or suspected neglect backed up with ongoing and sound professional judgement and multi-agency collaboration.
- The GCP2 and its contents should be used in supervision to ensure sound professional judgements are supported in cases of known/suspected neglect.
- The GCP2 should be repeated regularly (e.g. 3 monthly/as agreed in supervision/multi-agencies) to monitor change in parental care given and to support ongoing interventions.
- The GCP2 can be undertaken by one professional or more (e.g. in a Core Group).
- Parental consent is required to undertake the GCP2 where the threshold of significant harm has not been met.

## Circumstances when GCP2 is to be used

- In any agency where there is an 'open case' of suspected/known neglect. This includes in any part of the agency's system e.g. a Looked After Child, in Disability services etc.
- Where a referral about known/suspected neglect is being made to Children's Social Care at level 4 of the threshold document. In this instance as and far as possible, a completed GCP2 should accompany the referral or be underway. Where an urgent referral is made without a GCP2, the referrer will undertake or contribute to the GCP2 following referral. Where parents/carers do not consent to the GCP2 being done, the referrer will support the completion of the GCP2 using their knowledge of the family - as long as this is made clear in the records.
- Where a referral about known/suspected neglect is made to Early Help at levels 2 and 3 of the threshold document. In this instance a completed GCP2 should accompany the referral. Parental consent should be given for the GCP2 assessment. Where parents do not consent, this should be noted and contribute to the ongoing assessment/analysis of the child's circumstances. When there is no consent, the referrer's knowledge of the family should be used alongside the GCP2 tool to continue to assess and offer the most effective response to safeguard children/young people and support families.
- Child Protection Conferences where a child/young person:
  - is placed on a Child Protection Plan under the category of neglect
  - is placed on a Child Protection Plan under a different category but where neglect is known/suspected (e.g. where a secondary category of registration is not used)
  - has not had a completed GCP2 done for known/suspected neglect in previous 3 months