

APPENDIX 1:**NEGLECT THRESHOLD MATRIX****1. PARENTING CAPACITY**

PHYSICAL CARE			
Universal	EHA	Child in Need	Child Protection
Physical needs are provided for – e.g. food, drink, appropriate clothing, medical and dental care	Basic physical care needs are not provided consistently	Inconsistent availability of food in the house and no regular mealtimes/ routines	Empty cupboards, decaying food, children go unfed
	Parent/s struggling without the provision of support/ resources	Sporadic loss of heating and lighting	Regular absence of heating/lighting, house is cold and unlit
	Young, inexperienced parents with inadequate support from family/ friends	Inappropriate weaning, prop fed with bottle	Unweaned child regularly given solids and dangerous food items
		Child sometimes presents in school as hungry	Child often in school reporting no breakfast
		Inconsistent application of essential medication	Critical medication not given
		Child regularly presents as cold and pale	Child presents as anaemic without medical assessment.
		Child dressed in poorly fitting clothes, wrong size shoes	Child constantly inadequately clothed for the weather conditions
		Child has poor hygiene, sometimes smells and has untreated sores/ injuries take time to heal	Child often has persistent untreated head lice, infected injuries, and has a very strong smell of urine, damp or body odour.
		Child presents in school with significant illness but no explanation from parents	Child sent to school with acute illness
		Child often arrives late for school and is last to be collected	Poor school attendance
		Child has poorly maintained dental health	Child has untreated severe tooth decay
		Evidence that parent/carer is prioritising own needs over needs of the child	Child not taken for essential medical appointment or investigations that may have a long term effect on health

SAFE CARE			
Universal	EHA	Child in Need	Child Protection
Parent/s protect from danger and harm at home and elsewhere	Inconsistent supervision, parents unaware of child/ young person's whereabouts	Parent inconsistently allows child to play at great risk of physical injury e.g. in the road, on walls/ high level activities	Child sustains injuries whilst playing dangerously, falls off play equipment, is knocked down by cars
	Safety equipment, e.g. fireguards and stair gates, not used consistently	Child under 10 years sometimes left alone either at home or in the street without appropriate supervision	No active supervision, left to own devices, seeks company of much older children. Found wandering in the street or around shops
	Lack of awareness of dangers and risks to child/ young person	Child has access to dangerous equipment, fire, hot objects, drugs etc	Child sustains scalds, ingests harmful drugs/chemicals, in possession of knives and other dangerous objects
	Inappropriate child care arrangements – e.g. carers too young/inexperienced, too many different carers	Child has a number of recent admissions to Accident & Emergency due to lack of supervision from parents/carers	Child has multiple admissions to Accident & Emergency and parents ignore advice
	Parent/s offer inconsistent boundaries Child has inappropriate levels of sexual knowledge	Child left in care of young children	Child left with inappropriate carers e.g. who are under the influence of drugs and alcohol. Child is injured whilst being cared for by carers due to lack of supervision

EMOTIONAL CARE			
Universal	EHA	Child in Need	Child Protection
Parent/s show warmth, praise and encouragement	Parent's emotional response inconsistent	Child often made the scapegoat	Child is family scapegoat
	Parent/s have unmet emotional needs	Child not given praise	Child singled out for punishment
	Child unable to develop emotional relationships with parents	Child given inconsistent physical contact and reassurance	Child rarely comforted/reassured physically
	Parent occupied with sibling/s with higher level needs, e.g. disabilities, and needs additional support	Few age appropriate toys in the house	Absence of age appropriate toys
	Child spends considerable amount of time alone, and has limited access to leisure facilities	Child spends long, regular periods in their bedroom	Child spends all their time in their bedroom
	Child/ young person's key relationships with family members not always maintained	Parent sometimes ignores child, child displays attention seeking behaviour	Parent goes out of their way to ignore verbal/non verbal signals from the child.
	Complex family dynamics result in ongoing levels of instability	Child is rarely comforted when distressed	Parent always ignores child's distress and becomes angry
		Parent often indifferent to child's presence	Parent ignores child's presence
		Parent rarely referees disputes between siblings	Parent encourages sibling conflicts and fails to prevent injuries

2. ENVIRONMENTAL

Universal	EHA	Child in Need	Child Protection
Housing has basic amenities and appropriate facilities, and appropriate levels of cleanliness/hygiene are maintained	Housing is poor or not adequate for family's needs	Poorly maintained bed/bedding	No beds/bedding or inadequate sleeping arrangements
	Parent/s struggling to maintain standards of hygiene/repair in the house	Threat of eviction and sporadic periods of homelessness	Unable to maintain accommodation, accommodated by friends/neighbours
	Parents accruing rent arrears which may jeopardise tenancy if action is not taken	Poorly maintained washing/toilet facilities, unhygienic conditions	Blocked toilets, broken bathing and washing facilities
		Keeping of pets which pose a threat to young children	Pets, dogs etc bite children and soil the floors etc
		Accommodation requires repair - broken windows, doors, bare electrical cables, intermittent heating/lighting etc, house sparsely furnished	House unsecured, numerous serious health & safety hazards for children/adults, no heating/lighting, no curtains, furniture etc

3. CHILD DEVELOPMENT/HEALTH

Universal	EHA	Child in Need	Child Protection
Child/ young person in good health and developing appropriately for age.	Child/ young person not reaching developmental milestones	Child not encouraged to reach developmental milestones	No attempts made to encourage/assist child to reach developmental milestones
	Child has persistent minor health problems resulting in poor school attendance	Child left in pram/car seat for inappropriate periods of time	Child left for extended periods of time in pram/car seat
	Inconsistent attendance at key health appointments	Infrequent attendance at key health appointments	Failure to attend key health appointments
	Dental care not sufficient – poor attendance for checks/treatment Child inconsistently wears prescribed glasses or other eye sight correctional aids or hearing devices	Fails to consistently follow critical medication regimes Hearing and visual aids not always used	Critical medication not administered Child prevented from wearing prescribed glasses or other correctional aids/hearing devices
	Inappropriate response to minor injuries	Minor injuries left untreated	Failure to seek medical attention for serious injuries e.g. scalds, head injuries

Indicators of Neglect

Physical	Development	Behaviour
Failure to thrive	General delay – more explanation needed	Attachment disorders, anxious, avoidant
Recurrent and persistent minor infections	Language delayed – more explanation needed	Lack of social responsiveness
Frequent attendances at the Accident and Emergency department or admissions to hospital	Attention span limited	Overactive
Unexplained bruising	Socio – emotional immaturity	Aggressive and impulsive
Severe nappy rash	Learning difficulties	Seeks physical contact from strangers
Short stature - where there is not an underlying medical reason Including genetic factors	Lack of self esteem	Disordered or few relationships
Unkempt and dirty	Poor coping skills	Self stimulating or self injurious behaviour or both
		Unusual patterns of defecation or urination or both