

Preventing neglect

 web.archive.org/web/20120530042748/http://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-we-do/the-work-we-do/priorities-and-programmes/neglect/neglect-theme/neglect_wda86210.html

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Almost one in 10 children in the UK are neglected by their parents, leaving them vulnerable to harm.



How it happens

Problems of neglect are severe, making up nearly half of all abuse cases in England. Yet incidences often get overlooked because they are rarely reported, compared to other types of harm.

Neglect may occur during pregnancy when a mother abuses substances. Once a child is born, a parent or carer can cause neglect by failing to:

- provide adequate food, clothing and shelter
- protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger
- provide adequate supervision
- ensure access to medical care or treatment when needed
- respond to a child's emotional needs.

What we know

In the UK:

- the number of neglected children has increased in some areas
- children who are neglected are likely to be left more than once

- current prevention and treatment programmes for neglect are not doing enough
- over half those children placed in care following neglect return back home to the same situation.

The damaging effects of severe neglect can lead to accidental injuries, poor health, disability, poor emotional and physical development, lack of self-esteem, mental health problems and even suicide.

What we are doing

The NSPCC is running five new programmes to prevent child neglect. These include:

- [Graded Care Profile](#) - a tool we are testing to improve the lives of neglected children, by helping social workers to identify neglect.
- [Improving parenting, improving practice](#) - this tackles child neglect by supporting and challenging parents who are struggling to care for their children.
- [SafeCare®](#) - a pioneering programme which protects babies and young children from neglect by working with families where there are early signs of neglect.

We want to do as much as we can to prevent the neglect of children.

Further reading

[Priorities and programmes](#)

[Information on neglected children for professionals](#)

Programmes:

[Evidence-based Decisions for Children in Complex Neglect Cases](#)

[Graded Care Profile](#)

[Improving parenting, improving practice](#)

[Multi Systemic Therapy](#)

[SafeCare®](#)



Are you a child?

Do you need to talk? Call ChildLine on 0800 1111 or visit us online.

[Get some help](#)



Worried about a child?

You can talk with an NSPCC counsellor for free, 24 hours a day. Call 0808 800 5000.

Report a concern

Contact the helpline in:

العربية

বাংলা

فارسی

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