

Frequently Asked Question relating to Lincolnshire Child Neglect Resource and Lincolnshire Child Neglect Scales.

Q	Is the Child Neglect Resource and Scales only for those making an assessment and working with the family in a planned way
The Resource and Scales have been designed to assist with the detection of and any responses to child neglect. They can therefore be helpful in all areas of practice with a child and family, including a single contact with a child or family.	
Q	Is the Child Neglect Resource and Scales designed to help when completing an Early Help Assessment (EHA)
<p>The Resource has a section on the EHA specifically. Lincolnshire use Signs of Safety, and all the terminology and skills mentioned in relation to assessment, planning and intervention are transferable to other assessments.</p> <p>The Scales are suitable to use in the EHA or any other assessments and text can be taken directly from the Scales and copied into other documents. Using this language consistently will encourage a shared language and understanding of neglect and the circumstances that might be impacting the child.</p> <p>The Scales and the language within them should also be used in conversations with families.</p>	
Q	Is use of the Child Neglect Scales mandatory
There has been a collective effort by partners with the intention to offer both the Resource and the Scales to help embed a shared language, understanding and practice regarding child neglect. Where practitioners use the scales, this should strengthen any assessment, discussion with families and common understanding across services about the current picture for a child who is experiencing neglect. Therefore, it is strongly advised that when working with neglect the resource and scales are utilised.	
Q	What should happen if there are concerns in the red section of the Scales, for example, does this mean there is a need to make a Child Safeguarding referral
<p>The coloured sections are primarily designed to assist both your thinking and conversations with families and professionals. The Scales have guidance and prompts, and you can find further information and explanations of the use of Scales in the Child Neglect Resource.</p> <p>The Scales are intended to assist in both the gathering and analysis of information so that there can be a professional judgement made when assessing risk, and a decision made with all involved parties about what needs to happen next. There may be some examples outlined in the red section which leads to a judgement around a circumstance being high-risk, for instance, where a child is left alone with a dangerous adult. This will mean you would consider the risk and follow the usual safeguarding processes.</p> <p>You will set actions as part of your analysis and assessment that will include what is a priority need, some of these may sit in the red column but might not be an immediate high-risk situation. Any decisions about making a safeguarding referral should be made in the normal way, using the evidence you gather and your professional judgement.</p> <p>Your analysis of a situation and the risk will be assisted by using the scales and can inform any referral and subsequent discussions. You should share direct language and examples from the scales when making a safeguarding decision as this will lead to a better understanding of the situation.</p>	

Frequently Asked Question relating to Lincolnshire Child Neglect Resource and Lincolnshire Child Neglect Scales.

Q	Is this evidence based
	<p>The Resource has been built in response to learning from reviews locally and nationally. It is based on findings locally that includes Dip sample work that has guided the focus on the use of existing tools and approaches.</p> <p>The development of the resource has been carried out in partnership with relevant agencies who work with children and families, this has included joint working, consultation with teams and consideration of wider research and specific work carried out by Jane Wiffin on Child Neglect.</p>
Q	Are the Resource and Scales designed to use with the family
	<p>The Scales are written to the care giver, and the guidance includes gathering and reflecting on any views a carer may have about the care.</p> <p>The Resource provides links to a mixture of learning, tools and information for practitioners. It does include information and resources that might be useful to share with carers so that any direct or joint work can be carried out.</p>
Q	How do I show that I have utilised the scales and resource in assessments or direct work
	<p>Reference to the scales should be made in any assessment you complete where neglect is a factor. For instance, you can reference the scales and the wording within them in the EHA and highlight what these observations and concerns might mean for risk and what the impact is on the child.</p> <p>The scales prompt professionals to consider how the observations made, and any conversations held can inform any other assessments. Reference to the scales should be included in assessments and shared with other professionals in discussions, at meetings, in formal paperwork or when making referrals.</p>