

Appendix C

Types of neglect and associated features

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Type of neglect	Features associated with type/form of neglect
Medical neglect	Where parents/carers minimise or deny a child’s illness or health needs and/or they fail to seek appropriate medical attention or administer medication and treatment. A detailed study of 46 neglect-related SCRs found medical neglect was associated with catastrophic consequences in 5 of the cases examined (Brandon et al, 2013).
Nutritional neglect	Where a child does not receive adequate calories or nutritional intake for normal growth (also called failure to thrive). At its most extreme, nutritional neglect can take the form of malnutrition; it was linked to 8 of the 46 cases with catastrophic consequences in the study of SCRs (Brandon et al, 2013).
Emotional neglect	Where a parent/carer is unresponsive to a child’s basic emotional needs. They may fail to interact or provide affection, undermining a child’s self-esteem and sense of identity. Most experts distinguish this from emotional abuse by the intention behind the action: emotional abuse is <i>inflicted</i> and emotional neglect is an <i>omission</i> of care. Some young people who were the subject of SCRs had attempted or committed suicide (7 of 46 cases); in those cases, a long-term history of neglect or extreme isolation was found to be part of their circumstances (Brandon et al, 2013).
Physical neglect	Where a parent/carer does not provide appropriate clothing, food, cleanliness and living conditions. Unexplained deaths occurred in the context of neglectful care and a hazardous home environment in 10 of 46 cases examined in the study of SCRs. Further, assumptions about neglect were found to mask the danger to a child’s physical safety in 7 cases in the study of SCRs; physical assault led to death or serious injury in all of these cases (Brandon et al, 2013).
Lack of supervision and guidance	A form of neglect in which a parent/carer fails to provide an adequate level of guidance and supervision to ensure a child’s safety and protection from harm. A child may be left alone, abandoned, left with inappropriate carers or they may not be provided with appropriate boundaries about behaviours such as under-age sex or alcohol use. The study of SCRs found accidents to be associated with catastrophic consequences in 9 of 46 cases (Brandon et al, 2013).
Educational neglect	Where a parent/carer fails to provide a stimulating environment or show an interest in the child’s education at school. They may fail to respond to any special needs and they may not comply with state requirements about school attendance.