

# Adolescent Neglect



**1. Neglect and adolescents:** There is widespread understanding of the impact of neglect on the safety & welfare of younger children but neglect of adolescents has, by contrast, had less recognition

**7. Assessing impact of neglect?** Use other professionals who may have a relationship with the young person. Use the good practice principles particularly understanding their daily lived experience. Support your assessment using the [SSP Neglect Screening Tool](#)

**6. What should we do?** Be proactive and persistent even in the face of resistance. Positive relationships are key. Focus on self-esteem and helping young people to develop a sense of agency and control. Focus on self-esteem and helping young people to develop a sense of agency and control.

**5. Professionals:** It is essential that practitioners understand the impact of neglect. Children who have experienced neglect are more likely to have or insecure attachment styles. High risk behaviours can be interpreted as adult 'lifestyle choices' with the consequence of children being denied appropriate support



**2. Why it matters?** Recent studies have challenged a widely held assumption that young people may be more resilient to abuse or neglect than younger children – the impact of maltreatment does not decline with the age at which it is experienced.

**3. What are the risks?** An Ofsted thematic review of SCRs, noted a wide range risk factors for teenagers including: alienation from their families; school difficulties; accommodation problems; abuse/ exploitation by adults; drug and alcohol misuse; emotional and mental health difficulties.

**4. What increases the risk?** There is a higher risk of neglect where: a family is headed by a lone parent; a new partner/step-parent is introduced; parental alcohol/drug misuse; parental mental ill health such as depression; households where there is domestic abuse; Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES)

Further resources:

[Growing up neglected: a multi-agency response to older children - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Understanding Adolescent Neglect: Troubled Teens – The Children's Society, November 2016](#)

Thanks to Wirral Safeguarding Children Partnership

[safeguardingpartnership.swindon.gov.uk](http://safeguardingpartnership.swindon.gov.uk)