

Introduction:

The Norfolk Graded Care Profile (NGCP) must be used when there are concerns about child neglect.

The NGCP is Norfolk's approach to using the Graded Care Profile. It forms part of the county's broader partnership Neglect Strategy.

The NGCP is a tool designed to help practitioners assess the quality of care provided to children and young people. The NGCP is used to identify areas of concern and strength to develop targeted interventions that can improve the quality of care provided. It is important to regard the NGCP as a means of creating a plan for the child and information gathered is used to inform that plan. The NGCP is suitable for use in a wide range of settings, including health, education, and social care.

It is a consent-based tool so consent must be obtained from families before using it with them. If consent is not given, it may still be used by practitioners to support their thinking or decision making about families.

This guidance document provides an overview of the NGCP and describes how to use it in practice. The guidance covers the following areas:

- The purpose of the NGCP
- How to complete a NGCP assessment
- Using the results of a NGCP assessment
- Creating a support plan using the NGCP
- Training and support for using the NGCP
- Confidentiality and data protection

Purpose of the NGCP:

The NGCP is designed to assess and improve the quality of care provided to children and young people. The tool is based on a set of six key indicators of good parenting, which are:

1. Physical care
2. Health
3. Safety and Supervision
4. Love and Care
5. Stimulation and Education
6. Parental Motivation for Change

The NGCP uses a scale of 1 to 4 to rate each of these indicators, with 1 indicating excellent care and 4 indicating very poor care. The NGCP also includes a section for recording evidence to support the ratings.

Completing the NGCP:

The NGCP should be completed by a practitioner who has been trained to use the tool and experience of working with children and young people. It should be completed with families, and it is essential to obtain their consent to use the tool with them.

Planning the use of the NGCP with families involves ensuring that the family is fully informed about the assessment process and its purpose. It is important to establish a respectful and collaborative approach, to address any concerns or questions the family may have, and to identify any additional support needs that may be required. Clear communication and transparency throughout the process are crucial for building trust and ensuring the best outcomes for the child or young person.

The tool should involve gathering information from a range of sources, including the child or young person, their parents or carers, and any other professionals involved in their care. It should ideally also involve observing the child or young person in their home environment. Viewing the child's home or care setting is not essential.

Once all the information has been gathered, the practitioner completing the tool should use the tool to grade parenting. They should also record evidence to support the grading. The tool consists of 6 areas, each with several sub-areas. The NSCP supports the use of two sub-areas of the tool as a minimum. These are the sub-area where the concern is, and the sub-area where parenting is good (or better).

Using the Results of the NGCP tool:

The results of a NGCP can be used in several ways. The assessment can help practitioners to identify areas of concern and to develop targeted interventions that can improve the quality of care provided. The tool can also be used to monitor progress over time.

The results of a NGCP assessment should be shared with the child or young person and their parents or carers. The assessment should be presented clearly so it is easy to understand. Practitioners should also explain the purpose of the assessment and how the results will be used.

Creating a Support Plan:

The NGCP should be used to create a multi-agency plan to support a child who is being neglected, or for single agencies to plan an intervention. After completing the NGCP assessment, the results should, with the consent of the parents, be shared with relevant practitioners and agencies involved in the child's care, such as social workers, health professionals, and educators.

These practitioners should work together to develop a plan that addresses the areas of concern identified in the NGCP assessment, such as providing additional support to the family or accessing specialist services. The plan should be tailored to the child's individual needs and circumstances and should involve regular monitoring and review to ensure that progress is being made and that the child's safety and wellbeing is being protected.

Collaboration between practitioners and agencies is key to ensuring that the child receives the support they need to flourish.

Training and Support for use of the NGCP:

The NGCP is a specialist tool that requires training and support to use effectively. Practitioners who are interested in using the NGCP should receive training from a qualified trainer. The training should cover the following areas:

- The purpose and principles of the NGCP
- How to complete a NGCP assessment

- Using the results of a NGCP assessment
- The importance of confidentiality and data protection

In addition to training, practitioners should also have access to ongoing support. This can help to ensure that the NGCP is used effectively and that any issues or concerns are addressed promptly.

Confidentiality and Data Protection:

The NGCP assessment contains sensitive information about children and young people, their parents or carers, and their home environment. It is important that practitioners who use the NGCP understand the importance of confidentiality and data protection.

Practitioners should ensure that all information gathered during a NGCP assessment is stored securely and in accordance with relevant data protection legislation. The information should only be shared with those who have a legitimate need to know, and with the consent of the child or young person and their parents or carers.

Practitioners should also be aware of their legal and ethical responsibilities regarding safeguarding and child protection. Monitoring care using the NGCP involves regular review and assessment to track progress. If there are no improvements, a multi-agency meeting may be held to review the case and consider alternative interventions.

If the NGCP assessment raises concerns about the safety or welfare of the child or young person, appropriate action should be taken in line with local safeguarding procedures (via the NSCP website <https://norfolkscp.org.uk/>).

Further support for professionals is available here [Neglect | Norfolk Safeguarding Children Partnership | PC&TC \(norfolkscp.org.uk\)](#)

Conclusion:

The NGCP is an effective tool for assessing the quality of care provided to children and young people. When used effectively, the NGCP can help to identify areas of concern and develop targeted interventions that can improve the quality of care provided. However, it is important that practitioners receive appropriate training and support to use the NGCP effectively, and that they are aware of their responsibilities regarding confidentiality, data protection, and safeguarding.