

Section 7: Further Reading & Resources
[Reconceptualising Parental Non-Engagement in Child Protection](#)

[Learning About Neglect - Webinar #5: Working with families where engagement is a challenge – YouTube](#)

Also visit [Norfolk Safeguarding Children Partnership](#) for training offers

Section 6: Managing Interventions/Support
It is important for the professionals to work together to think about why there is disengagement. Professionals need to be open and honest with the family about the disengagement and work in partnership with them to think about a plan together to support engagement. It can be difficult working with non-engagement so it may be helpful to consider a JAGS.

Section 5: Family Function & Relationships
Family networks, including friends and the community, should always be considered as part of a longer term sustainable solution. Always remember to include fathers and paternal relatives.

Section 1: What are patterns of disengagement?
Parents may be involved and committed when things are going well, however, they may disengage if they are struggling: relationships may break down and they do not follow through on agreed interventions. May present as disguised compliance.

Section 2: What do CYP & Families say about why they disengage? Parents talk about feeling overwhelmed by number of professionals particularly on bad days. They describe life being 'rubbish' or 'unfair' and are unable to prioritise their children's needs. Families may also struggle with having frequent changes in workers and inconsistent service provision.

Section 3: What does research tell us about effective engagement? Co-production is essential. The family are most likely to engage if:

- they believe they are working in partnership with practitioners
- practitioners are being open and honest
- their strengths are recognised
- practitioners demonstrate they are supporting and providing services to enable parent/s and carers to make necessary changes so they can meet the needs of the child.

Section 4: Assessment & Support
Always use and review the GCP to understand the 'snapshot' in time. Chronologies also support identifying patterns and hotspots, e.g. anniversaries, financial pressure points and any reasons why things may feel difficult. This helps the parents and professionals to anticipate and prepare.

