

Things to remember

- Please liaise and refer into appropriate services when needed (ideally with consent) e.g. mental health, physical health, substance misuse, safeguarding, housing, voluntary, RSPCA, charities etc.
- Please consult local adult and child safeguarding policies, procedures, pathways and guidance to support co-ordinated multi-agency information sharing and decision making.

Self-neglect:

Self-neglect covers a wide range of behaviour e.g. neglecting to care for one’s personal hygiene, health or surroundings and includes behaviour such as hoarding (Care Act, 2014). Specific characteristics of self-neglect can include:

- Lack of self-care to an extent that it threatens personal health, hygiene and safety.
- Lack of care of one's environment e.g. cleanliness, hoarding.
- Refusal of/inability to engage with services that mitigate risk of harm to safety and wellbeing.

Causes

Often multifaceted biopsychosocial contributory factors e.g. Neuropsychological, injury, illness, medication, trauma, mental health difficulties.

Support /Training

- Decluttering, cleaning services, property management and repairs may be of benefit for some but could be distressing for others
- Cases can be challenging and complex please seek support via supervision and clinical panel accessed via Experts dashboard.

Approach

Safeguarding duties apply where the adult has care and support needs that means they are unable to protect themselves against self-neglect. In most cases, the intervention should seek to minimise the risk while respecting the individual choices.



Good Practice

- Work with partners to ensure the right approach for each individual.
- Balance wishes of member with statutory duty.
- Conduct thorough systemic risk assessments in collaboration with allied agencies and continue to update and monitor.
- Refer to the Self Neglect Toolkit for the member's area.
- Consult Associate Handbook for further guidance.

Relevant legislation

- Self-neglect is included as a category under adult safeguarding in The Care Act (2014) Statutory Guidance.
- This requires local authorities to make enquiries, or cause others to do so, if it believes an adult is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect. Cases of self-neglect may not prompt a Section 42 enquiry – whether or not a response is required will depend on the adults’ ability to protect themselves.
- Apply legal frameworks (Care Act, 2014; Mental Capacity Act, 2005 and Human Rights Act, 1998). Please incorporate the 6 principles from the Care Act (2014) and Making Safeguarding Personal in your work.

Adopt a trauma informed systemic approach.

Adopt Professional Curiosity.

Think Family Approach.