

***\*\*You have been sent this alert as you are signed up to the GSCB 'alert' system\*\****

**\*\*Please disseminate this alert widely throughout your agencies\*\***

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility but as professionals, we all have a duty to make sure children in Gloucestershire are safe and are free from living in neglectful situations. As part of the Child Neglect Strategy, the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board (GSCB) has developed a toolkit to help all professionals working with children and families in Gloucestershire to identify and assess signs of child neglect and provide support at the earliest possible stage.

The toolkit has been developed as a result of findings from local and national serious case reviews, especially the case of 'Abigail' and her siblings which was published by the GSCB in 2014. The recent Ofsted inspection also highlighted the importance of a consistent approach to the identification of child neglect and the provision of effective help to children and families at the earliest possible stage.

The toolkit is easy to use and can be viewed here

<http://www.gscb.org.uk/media/15291/gloucestershire-child-neglect-toolkit-270417-final-vs.pdf>

We would encourage you to print a copy and go through it with the families you are working with as it is also a valuable visual aid for families and can be used to review progress after the initial risk assessment.

Further information about neglect can be found on the GSCB website.

<http://www.gscb.org.uk/i-work-with-children-young-people-and-parents/issues-affecting-children-and-young-people/children-living-with-neglect-neglect-toolkit/>

Training sessions in relation to understanding when a child may be experiencing neglect, including how to use the toolkit will soon be available across the county. Details of the training modules will be available through the glosfamilies directory website, under 'information for practitioners'. [www.glosfamiliesdirectory.org.uk](http://www.glosfamiliesdirectory.org.uk)

**We are asking that you disseminate this alert widely throughout your agencies.**