**Frequently Asked Questions –
Neglect Practice Guidance & Toolkit Session - 21.09.2020:**

***What is the rationale for the scoring within the Neglect Toolkit?***
Further guidance will be provided imminently in relation to the scoring within an updated Neglect Toolkit reflecting the case study (Mary Jo’s Story).

***Can the Neglect Toolkit be done retrospectively?***It is important to record the dates during which the toolkit is completed because it is recognised that care can fluctuate over time. Clarifying the current level of care means that when the scoring is repeated, it can provide evidence about whether there have been improvements or deterioration in the level of care for a child.

***What are the timescales for using the toolkit tool?***

Because care of children can fluctuate over time and to avoid results being distorted the toolkit should be undertaken over several sessions and through announced and unannounced visits.

It is difficult to pinpoint the exact number of sessions because each family situation will be very different.

***Can I use one toolkit for more than one child?***

It is intended that each child in the family has their own toolkit assessment undertaken. This recognises that different children in the same family are at different ages and stages of development and therefore the care that parents/carers need to provide to them will need to be different. Even where children are at very similar age and stage, parents/carers may provide differing types of care to each child.

However, It is possible for assessments and sections for more than one child in a family to be undertaken at the same time, e.g. when an observation of the parent offering care to all their children is being undertaken.

***Can I undertake some parts of the toolkit and not others?***

The toolkit measures care given to a child across the whole continuum of a child’s needs. It is this that supports planning and interventions, so practitioners are clear where the strengths and concerns are in the care given. As such the whole of the toolkit needs to be undertaken to ensure there is a clear and balanced view about how children’s needs are being met.

Naturally if there are aspects which are not relevant for a particular parent or child, then that area should be left out.

Sometimes a practitioner will only be able to contribute to one or a few parts of the tool (for example a midwife) and it is important that they can contribute their knowledge to the completion of the tool. Then other agencies can contribute to other areas of the tool more relevant to them and their role with the family.

***Can the Neglect Toolkit be used in Early Help services?***As Neglect is often cumulative,it would be best practice to identify early concerns as well as strengths when working with children and families. Therefore, the utilisation of the Neglect Toolkit at this stage will help to highlight issues prior to the transfer of cases to other teams/service areas.