



Key Indicators – Disorganised neglect

	UNIVERSAL/EARLY INTERVENTION	EARLY HELP	TARGETED EARLY HELP	CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE
Characteristics of parents / carers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demanding and dependant • Cope with babies (babies need them) but then struggle • Flustered presentation • Late for school/club pick ups • Low mood • Unstructured family routines • Problem driven • Revert back to own needs • Over dramatization of events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feelings of being undervalued or emotionally deprived as a child-so need to be centre of attention/affection • Lack of 'attunement' • Crisis response • Avoidance of contact with children • Poor attachment • Poor parenting • Not engaging with health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disguised compliance • Putting own needs before child • Drug/alcohol misuse • Depression • Not getting children to school • Escalation of mental health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High criticism/low warmth • Continuous use of medical issues to cover up/disguise • Chaotic family • Escalation of depression • Domestic abuse • Chronic substance misuse
Characteristics of children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anxious and demanding • Infants-irritable/clinging/difficult to soothe • Lateness at school/nursery • No school equipment • Not able to sit still • Snatching • Struggle with quiet time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young children-attention seeking, exaggerated affect, poor confidence, and concentration, jealous, show off, go too far • Unsupervised and/or monitored internet access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roaming late at night • Trouble during unsupervised times • Engaging in risk taking behaviours • Bullying • Aggressive • Depressed • Low school attendance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-harm • Causing harm to others • Substance/alcohol use • Offending Left at home alone • Anti-social behaviour • Able to do what they want • Ignored • Danger to self/others



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vulnerable to unhealthy relationships • No boundaries or routines • Not at risk of Child Exploitation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fear intimacy • Missing school/nursery • Disruptive at school • Fretful Crying • Angry • Afraid • Low risk of Child Exploitation (CERAF) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speech and language delays • Medium risk of Child Exploitation (CERAF) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head lice infestation • High risk of Child Exploitation (CERAF)
What professionals notice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families who have had lots of Early Help / Social Care involvement • Numerous pregnancies • Missed appointments • Messy house • Erratic changes in mood • Unable to acknowledge problems • Not reporting school absences • Disruptive behaviour • Poor hygiene • Poor dental hygiene 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annoy and frustrate but also endear and amuse • Chaos and disruption • Avoidance of home visits • Lots of contact • Regular lateness and absences • Family identify own need • No improvement • Persistent lateness • Children visibly tired 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive history or professional involvement • Feelings drive behaviour/social interaction • Dependency on services to provide support • Lack understanding/ acceptance of issues • Multiple suspensions/ Exclusion from school • Severe dental disease 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-social behaviour • Parents create new crises • Parents challenging to work with • Frequent exclusions from school • Non-engagement with education