



Background Information

The Graded Care Profile (GCP) was originally developed in 1995 as a tool designed to provide an objective measure of the quality of care a child (or children) receives from their carer or carers over a specified period.

The NSPCC did the first national evaluation of the original tool and GCP2 was developed as a result.

Benefits of using GCP2 in practice are:

- Creates a consistent, objective approach and common language across all disciplines
- Increases confidence in decision-making, at all levels
- Supports good working relationships with parents as it identifies parental strengths as well as areas of concern
- Supports a better and broader understanding of neglect
- Promotes a child centred approach
- Improves quality of referrals across agencies

The grades are based on professional observations and good quality evidence gathered during this period of Assessment. The Assessment period is usually carried out over six to eight sessions and can include announced and unannounced home visits as well as other professionals' observations.

Who can use the GCP2 Tool?

The use of the GCP2 has been embedded within Children's Social Care and Early Help for a few years and is now being expanded to support wider multiagency use of the tool to assess care to identify neglect in Coventry, including; Health Professionals, Early Help Practitioners and Social Workers.

Providing children and families with timely early support is the most effective way to safeguard children. Targeted early help can prevent children from suffering harm and enables parents to make changes before a difficulty becomes embedded.

The tool can be used by GCP2 trained practitioners at any level of intervention from early help services through to statutory child protection plans. Where there are concerns about neglect the tool should always be used.

Anyone involved in evaluating the quality of care who can access the home and observe care can use the GCP2. This includes social workers, family support workers, teachers and home school link workers, health staff and parents and young people themselves.



GCP2 in Practice

GCP2 trained practitioners grade the quality of the care that the child is receiving in each area objectively.

GCP2 assesses 4 areas linked to Maslow's hierarchy of needs. Each area is further divided into sub-areas:

- Physical Care** includes consideration of nutrition, housing, clothing, hygiene and health
- Safety** is considered in parent's presence, and when they are absent
- Emotional Care** includes the responsiveness and sensitivity of the parent and consideration of the quality of the relationship between the parent and child.
- Developmental Care** includes considering how the child's need for age appropriate stimulation, approval, discipline and boundaries, and nurture are met

Each area and sub-area is graded from 1 (the need is always met) to 5 (the need is never met).

The GCP2 can be used as a standalone tool or as part of a wider assessment to evidence quality of care a child is receiving during the assessment window.

Interpretation

Analysis of the GCP2 is informed by wider contextual information and may inform a hypothesis. Each Area is scored individually. The profile can be scored as:

- Uniformly good or satisfactory (all 1 or 2)
- Uneven (variation across 1-5) need to decide how to improve those areas that score highly
- Uneven (variation across 3-5) This denotes clear safeguarding concerns
- Uniformly unsatisfactory (all 4 or 5) this may require an immediate safeguarding response



What is happening, not 'why' it is happening

GCP2 allows practitioners to understand what is and what is not happening for a child. It does not explain why it's happening, so professional judgement should always be applied in any assessment of a child. This includes consideration of the impact of any parental issues and responding to any immediate risks identified.

It does not: replace good professional practice or engagement, measure impact or assess the reason for any neglect.

Training

Professionals must be specially trained to use the tool. All practitioners using the GCP2 must have attended and passed the licensed training programme which is being rolled out in Coventry by our new team of licensed GCP2 Trainers.



Who to contact regarding GCP2?

For further information regarding GCP2, please contact Amanda Reynolds (Early Help Manager – East) amanda.reynolds@coventry.gov.uk