

1. Context setting – the audit.

The multi-agency case file audit took place in December 2022 and was attended by representatives from West Mercia Police, Integrated Care System, Midlands Partnership Foundation Trust, Shropshire Community Health Trust, Education Access Service, Shropshire Council Children's Services and Shropshire Council Early Help, We Are With You, Public Health and Youth Justice.

2. Context setting – the audit

Three individuals were chosen for the audit. They were all young people who had experienced neglect and who were known to We Are With You for drug and alcohol support.

The audit looked at agency use of pathways, recording of the voice of the individual, how risk was assessed and the impact upon outcomes.

3. Themes

The following themes were identified within the audit –

- Risk of exploitation
- Exclusion from school
- Parental substance use
- Importance of early intervention

8. Finding – Think Exploitation

Be professionally curious around the risk of exploitation in all forms. Consider the exploitation indicators and explore these with the individual

[Exploitation pathway and risk assessment tool](#)
[SMARTER screening tool - we are with you](#)



4. Finding – Think Neglect

There are 8 types of Neglect. The Partnership has developed tools to help you identify and assess Neglect and a Support Pack is available for practitioners.

Agencies need to be using the Neglect Screening Tool and Graded Care Profile 2 with families - Find these tools here - [Neglect Tools](#)

7. Finding – Parental substance use.

Discuss substance use, explore what this looks like for them – how much, how often, what and where. Explore the impact on their day to day living and inform them of support services and assist them to access these. Shropshire Recovery Partnership is the adult service. Find their contact details here - [Shropshire Recovery Partnership](#)

6. Finding– Professional curiosity!

When working with an individual be professionally curious and ask questions! Ask more, use proactive questioning and explore with the person. Don't make assumptions! Don't take things at face value and ask 'why'?

[approved-professional-curiosity-guidance-inc-additional-covid-19-support.pdf \(procedures.org.uk\)](#)

5. Learning – Chronologies

Chronologies provide an evidential basis and are a key tool for agencies to document concerns – especially in relation to neglect. Chronologies help identify patterns of concerns, areas of improvements and also help understand the child's experiences over a period of time.

[Guidance can be found here](#)

**Multi-agency case file audit
Drug and Alcohol and Child Neglect Strategic Priority
Groups – Children who have experienced Neglect
and who use substance. December 2022-2023**