

The Graded Care Profile Version 2 (GCP2)

Introduction

This information sheet is to help those professionals who have not been trained in the GCP2 to understand what the tool does; the areas it reviews and the definitions used to support professional judgements. This leaflet can be shared with colleagues and included in court bundles. The aim is to ensure all those involved in using its findings to make decisions for the child and family, can do so based on an informed understanding of the GCP2.

What is the GCP2

The GCP2 is a practical tool which supports practitioners in measuring the quality of care delivered to an individual child from an individual carer or carers over a short window of time, and is designed to give a representative overview of the current level of care. The grades are based on observations and good quality evidence gathered during this window. All practitioners using the GCP2 have attended and passed a licensed training programme.

The GCP2 reviews “what it’s like” for the child not “why it’s happening”. However, parental issues are taken into account during the analysis and planning stage. The quality of care is scaled between 1 (best) and 5 (worst).

A judgement of whether parenting is neglectful or not is based on whether the needs of a child are adequately being met. The GCP2 helps professionals to be clear as to what the basic needs of a child are, and to what degree they are being met. This allows practitioners to make reasoned and explicit judgements in relation to neglect.

The GCP2 separates out different areas of parenting and the needs of the child. These areas are:

- Physical care
- Care of safety
- Emotional care
- Developmental care

These areas are then further subdivided. These sub-areas have been drawn from research, empirical evidence and developmental psychology and cover:

Physical Care	Care of Safety	Emotional Care	Developmental Care
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nutrition • Housing • Clothing • Hygiene • Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety in carers presence • Safety when carer is absent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent /Carer’s responsiveness • Mutual engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stimulation • Approval • Disapproval • Acceptance

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The quality of care the child receives in all the above areas is then graded according to the qualitative descriptors outlined below:

GCP2 Grade Descriptors

Grade	Description
1	All the child's needs are always met and the parent goes the extra mile. The child is always put first.
2	All essential needs are always met. The child is a priority.
3	Most of the time the essential needs of the child are met.
4	Most of the time the essential needs of the child are not met. The child's needs are placed second to those of the parent/carer's.
5	The child's essential needs are not met. May be due to intentional disregard. The child is not considered.

Research

The second version of the Graded Care Profile (GCP2) was tested for inter-rater reliability; concurrent and face validity.

Inter-rater reliability, is the fundamental test all assessment tools should be exposed to, and it provides a score of how much homogeneity or consensus there is in the ratings given by different raters/practitioners.

Validity refers to the accuracy of an assessment - whether or not it measures what it is supposed to measure.

The GCP2 has been rigorously evaluated and found to be reliable and valid. It can be used in the knowledge that it has sound psychometric properties, and is a reliable and valid assessment tool in aiding practitioners in the assessment of child neglect. (Johnson, Smith and Fisher 2015).

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