



Adolescent Neglect Campaign

How is Adolescent Neglect experienced?

Physical Care:

- Removed from family care
- Early sexual activity and potentially pregnancy
- Poor fitting and unsuitable clothing
- Poor health, injury or disability, hunger, personal hygiene
- Living in uncomfortable, cold accommodation
- Eating and sleep disorders
- Admissions to hospital

Safety:

- Victimisation, bullying, assault,
- Substance misuse
- Lack of supervision and protection – at home, community and online
- Offending/reoffending,
- Anti-social behaviour
- Absconding
- Harmful sexual behaviour, sexual abuse

Emotional Care:

- Affects resilience
- Self-esteem
- Relationships (intimacy/separation)
- Suicidal ideation, self-harm, depression,
- Withdrawn, isolated
- Anger
- Feel no one cares, pessimistic for the future

Developmental Care:

- Delinquency
- Less engaged at school, truancy, exclusion
- Less access to books
- Poor concentration
- Lacks motivation
- Feel less competent
- 'Premature adolescent autonomy'

Signs of Adolescent Neglect

How to recognise you are being neglected

- You are left unsupervised for extended periods, including overnight
- There is little not enough attention given to your diet / nutrition
- There is not enough attention given to your education
- You are not taken to medical appointments when you are unwell
- You are often not sent to school
- You are isolated from peers
- You do not have parental support
- You do not have a safe place to live
- You are exposed to unsafe adults
- Clothes are the wrong size, dirty, or don't keep you warm or dry

How you can respond if you think you are being neglected

What you could see as a 'freedom' may be a risk factor caused by neglect.

If you are worried about yourself or someone you know, talk to someone you trust.

Don't be afraid to ask for help – talk to someone like a teacher, school nurse, who will be able to put you (or the person you are worried about) in touch with someone who can help.

For help, advice and more information:

- Call **Childline** on **0800 1111** or visit **www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/abuse-safety/neglect/**
- Visit **www.kooth.com** for mental health support
- To discuss a non-emergency matter with the **Police**, call **101**.
- In an emergency, always call **999**.