# Neglect Chronology Guidance

A chronology is a tool to help practitioners summarise and understand what is happening in a child’s life. It is a summarised account of events in date order. Neglect is not a single incident and concerns often build up over time. It’s important to record any concerns and observations to help us understand any patterns of behaviour and allow us to see the wider picture.

Where appropriate a chronology should be completed together with other agencies as each agency may be holding a ‘piece of the puzzle’. [Multi-Agency Chronology Guidance](https://safeguarding.calderdale.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/MA-Chronology-Guidance.pdf)

A chronology is not an assessment in itself but it can contribute to an assessment or help you understand when additional intervention may be needed. Effective chronologies enable us to see the ways in which an individual child or a family have functioned over time and to examine how families have managed their own circumstances, as well as how professionals have managed the case over time.

Your organisation may already have a template and guidance for completing children’s chronologies but if not, you can use the template to record incidents and concerns.

**To assist merging of the individual chronologies, it is important that the following headings are used.**

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| **Agency making the recording** | **Date** | | **Time** | | **Source of information** | | **Subject;**  **Child/adult**  **Family member** | | **Significant Event, Action and Outcome (include reference to whether child was seen, with whom or alone)** | | **comment** | |
| This is the agency completing this part of the chronology. When the chronology is merged with others, this will show who was involved at this time. | Put in the date of the significant event (e.g. 1/11/14) and note any subsequent or consecutive dates in the Comment | Put in a specific time but leave blank if not significant | | Where did you obtain the information? (e.g. Health Visitor, Records, Assessment Report etc) | | Write the name of the person to whom the entry refers.  If more than one person, include all names. | | Summarise the key information relating to the child.  Summarise the services offered/provided and decisions reached. | | Add any other information here | |

This is an example of a neglect chronology for a fictional family:

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| **Agency making the recording** | **Date** | **Time** | **Source of information** | **Subject;**  **Child/adult**  **Family member** | **Significant Event, Action and Outcome (include reference to whether child was seen, with whom or alone)** | **comment** |
| Locala | 22/08/2019 | 10.00am | Kate Grey, Health Visitor | Jack  Jamie  Chloe  Sophie  Charlie | New birth visit completed to family home. Health Visitor concerned that home appeared cluttered and there does not seem to be equipment for sterilising baby Jack’s bottles.  Advice given to Sophie (mum) about sterilising baby’s bottles. Sophie advised she has what she needs and will be tidying up the home once baby’s father,  Jamie gets home. | Home conditions could be unhygienic or unsafe for young children |
| FIT | 03/09/2019 | 13.00pm | Yasmin Green, Family Support Worker | Sophie | Sophie contacted children’s centre to request food bank voucher as she said she was having issues with her benefits.  Food bank voucher provided.  Early Help  Assessment offered - this was declined | Children could go without adequate food |
| School | 09/09/2019 | 09.15am | Victoria Brown, Head Teacher | Chloe | Home visit conducted because Chloe had not returned after the summer holiday. School concerned home was untidy, and Chloe seemed to be looking after baby Jack when mum was sleeping.  Sophie and Chloe advised they had both been unwell, but Chloe would be back to school later in the week | Concerns that Chloe is being kept at home to support Sophie with new baby |
| locala | 17/10/2019 | 14.00pm | Kate Grey, Health Visitor | Jack | Jack was not brought for his immunisations.  A further appointment to be offered and letter sent | Jack could be at risk of childhood illnesses |
| West Midlands Police | 09/11/2019 | 20.30pm | James Black, West Midlands Police | Sophie  Jamie  Chloe  Jack  Charlie | Police called to a verbal altercation between Sophie and Jamie. Police were concerned about home conditions and the children not being in bed late at night.  Early Help support offered to family – this was accepted | Children may be witnessing domestic abuse. Concerns continue for home conditions and possible lack of  routine |
| Early Help | 14/01/2020 | 11.00am | Mark White, Early Help Worker | Sophie  Jamie  Chloe  Jack  Charlie | Improvements made to home conditions and school attendance with family plan in  place  Early Help support to continue. | Situation seems to have stabilised for children |
| school | 03/02/2020 | 11:45am | Victoria Brown, Head Teacher | Charlie | School shared that Charlie has been looking increasingly unkempt and often has not had breakfast before school.  Professionals to hold meeting and consider escalation | Charlie’s basic needs are not being met |

# Neglect Chronology Template

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| **Agency making the recording** | **Date** | **Time** | **Source of information** | **Subject;**  **Child/adult**  **Family member** | **Significant Event, Action and Outcome (include reference to whether child was seen, with whom or alone)** | **comment** |
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