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Introduction

Self neglect is a challenging area to support as an individual has the right, under the Human Rights Act, to a private life and self-determination.

If someone chooses to live in a particular way, there are limited occasions when the law can intervene. These factors must be balanced with the right to safeguarding and the right to protect someone from harm.

Self neglect covers a range of behaviours including neglecting one's own personal hygiene, health or surroundings. It also includes the refusal of services that might lead to a risk of harm and can include behaviour i.e. hoarding.

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What to do next

- Know how to recognise self neglect and hoarding.
 - Know your legal responsibilities
- Documents that will give further support:

~ **Safeguarding Adults Procedures Appendices 2,8,&9**
Appendix 8 of the Procedures refers to people who wish not to engage.

~ **Self-neglect and Hoarding Guidance**

Appendix 2 of the guidance signposts to the Clutter-rating tool
*See links below

Learning: Practice Guidance.

- Recognise that other professionals and organisations such as church groups, care workers, housing, voluntary or charity groups may be helpful to work with the person and support them.
- Remember rules of information sharing and confidentiality.



Learning:

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What is self neglect?

Self neglect may happen because a person is unable or unwilling to care for themselves and/or for their home. They may/may not have mental capacity to take decisions about their care. Practitioners must consider a person's mental, physical, social and emotional state that may affect the situation. Children can be affected by adults who self neglect & hoard, these will be dealt with via the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). Enquiries around self neglect and hoarding do not always result in a 'Safeguarding Adults Enquiry'.

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Learning: Helping people who self neglect

- Promote a person-centred approach
- Help individuals to be aware of and to recognise self neglect.
- The risk assessment & management should be proportionate to the concern raised.
- Clarify and agree the roles & responsibilities of supporting agencies.

Learning:

Principles when working with people who self neglect/hoard

- Start with the assumption that the individual is best placed to judge their well-being.
- Pay close attention to the individual's views, wishes, feelings & beliefs.
- Where possible, prevent or delay the need for care & support by discussing and agreeing alternative solutions
- Involve the individual as fully as possible.

Learning about self neglect & hoarding

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Learning:

Practice Guidance.

- If the person does not understand the implications of their behaviour, even after support has been given, then their capacity to understand should be considered.
- Multi-Agency risk meetings are an opportunity for professionals to work with an individual to agree actions & monitor progress.