

Multi-Agency self-neglect and hoarding risk assessment guidance tool

This document is for guidance purposes and to be used to prompt discussion with the customer and aid multi-agency professional planning and decision making. The document can be used at referral stage and also as an ongoing risk assessment tool.

The following scale is not exhaustive but allows the professionals to consider the observed living conditions of the customer. The Signs of Safety assessment and planning document which follows can be used to support further consideration of required next steps.

The score is for assessment purposes only and may be re-visited at any time to measure progress and prompt discussion with the customer and other professionals.

WHEN USING THE RISK SCORE BELOW CONSIDER WHETHER THE PERSON HAS THE MENTAL CAPACITY TO UNDERSTAND THE RISK ASSOCIATED WITH THEIR LIVING CONDITION. ALSO CONSIDER WHETHER THE PERSON HAS CAPACITY TO EXECUTE CHANGES TO REDUCE THE RISK.

For further information including more in-depth assessment tools refer to Suffolk County Council hoarding and self-neglect policy

Physical well-being & self-care			
Eating & drinking 1	2	3	4
Aware of nutritional needs & provides excellent/good quality food and drink	Quality of food and/or drink inconsistent through lack of knowledge or effort	Quality of food and/or drink is consistently poor through lack of effort; consistent support required to improve any quality May be experiencing health related issues	Quality and frequency of food and/or drink consistently not a priority despite support leading to health issues of concern such as dehydration, malnutrition, infection, diarrhoea, vomiting and/or significant weight loss

Washing/bathing 1	2	3	4
Clean, bathed and groomed regularly with clean, weather appropriate clothing	Irregular bathing and occasional weather inappropriate clothing	Occasionally bathed but seldom groomed. Clothing often dirty and/or unsuitable to weather conditions Concerns that this maybe having an impact on health of low level concern which is responsive to treatment in the community	Seldom/never bathed or clean, concern regarding odour. Dirty and/or poor condition of clothing (Maybe wholly unsuitable to weather conditions) Poor health of significant concern such as skin infections, sores, abscesses. Likely to unmanageable within community setting.
Medical needs 1	2	3	4
Medical advice sought proactively for all health matters	Seeks advice from professionals on matters of genuine and immediate concern. Occasionally fails to keep appointments	Only seeks advice when illness becomes moderately severe. Fails to keep some medical appointments and takes only partial medical advice	Only seeks help when illness becomes critical (emergencies), this can also be ignored. Clear disregard for own welfare and/or fails to consistently take medication leading to physical ill health and frequent hospital admissions. Significant mental ill health may also be of concern

Living conditions			
Home Amenities 1	2	3	4
Home is well maintained and useable. Essential and additional amenities- heating, power, water, useable shower/bath, cooker and fridge	All essential amenities - heating, power, water, useable shower/bath, cooker and fridge Some repairs needed and amenable to repair or able to self -repair	Lack of some essential amenities or lack of access to essential amenities due to hoarding In disrepair - unable and /or unamenable repair	Little or no essential amenities or hoarding prevents safe use of any amenities within the home Dangerous Disrepair – significant risk to well-being of person and/or others
Home and garden cleanliness 1	2	3	4
Takes pride in appearance of home and garden which is clean and tidy (ref clutter score pic 1)	Cleanliness is not of concern However, level of untidiness may be having some impact on well-being but manageable (ref clutter score pic 2-3)	Unclean and/or cluttered home and/or garden Dirty (bad odour) Some infestations Animal/human waste Food waste These are having a moderate impact on person's health and well-being and with support could be managed (ref clutter score pic 4-6)	Hoarding within unclean environment of home and garden Dirty (bad odour) Some infestations Animal/human waste Food waste These are significantly impacting on person's health and well-being – consider whether there is any impact on animals or children in the property also (ref clutter score 7-9)

Home safety 1	2	3	4
<p>Essential safety features, secure doors and windows</p> <p>Safe gas and electrical appliances, smoke alarms, CO2 alarms</p> <p>Home escape plan pertinent to needs of the person</p> <p>Additional appliances/assistive technology pertinent to needs of the person</p>	<p>All doors and windows in use and accessible</p> <p>Possible fire risk - Lacking/insufficient essential safety features, DIY that is not safe, overloaded electrical sockets</p> <p>Lacking an escape plan</p>	<p>Limited access to windows and doors</p> <p>Increased fire risk - No essential safety features. Some possible hazards of escape/fire due to disrepair and/or clutter Evidence of smoking Flammable items stored in the home, consider newspapers, stocked piled continence aids, paraffin based medications, irresponsible use of oxygen</p> <p>No escape plan</p> <p>Person is unable to sleep in a bed and must sleep in an alternative place due to clutter or hygiene (Rough sleeping while declining all offers of support to reduce significant risk)</p> <p>Risk of entry by intruders – Problems keeping a dwelling secure against unauthorised entry due to disrepair, and the maintenance of defensible space</p>	<p>Access/exit via one route only or unable to exit unaided due to mobility</p> <p>No essential safety features</p> <p>Significant fire risk - Definite hazard of escape/fire from disrepair or clutter- exposed electric wires and sockets, unsafe electronic items</p> <p>Evidence of cigarette burns to clothes or bedding Evidence of small fires or burns Unsafe storage or use of flammable liquids or gases</p> <p>Excessive damp or mould overgrowth</p> <p>Excess cold in winter with no functioning heating system or hot water</p> <p>Person is unable to sleep in a bed and is forced to sleep in uncomfortable and/or insanitary conditions</p>

Own views of safety in home and environment 1	2	3	4
Fully aware of personal safety issues - trips, slips and falls	Variable awareness and perception of personal safety issues, accepting of advice	Oblivious to personal safety issues and/or reluctant to accept advice due to lack of motivation or understanding	Unconcerned about personal safety issues Lacks motivation or understanding to address concerns

Clutter image scale

Clutter Image Rating Scale

Please select the photo that most accurately reflects the amount of clutter in the room. The Suffolk County Council Self Neglect and Hoarding policy contains clutter images for each room in the home; however, the following images may be used for guidance and early assessment purposes.

Image 1 (Ref home and garden level 1)

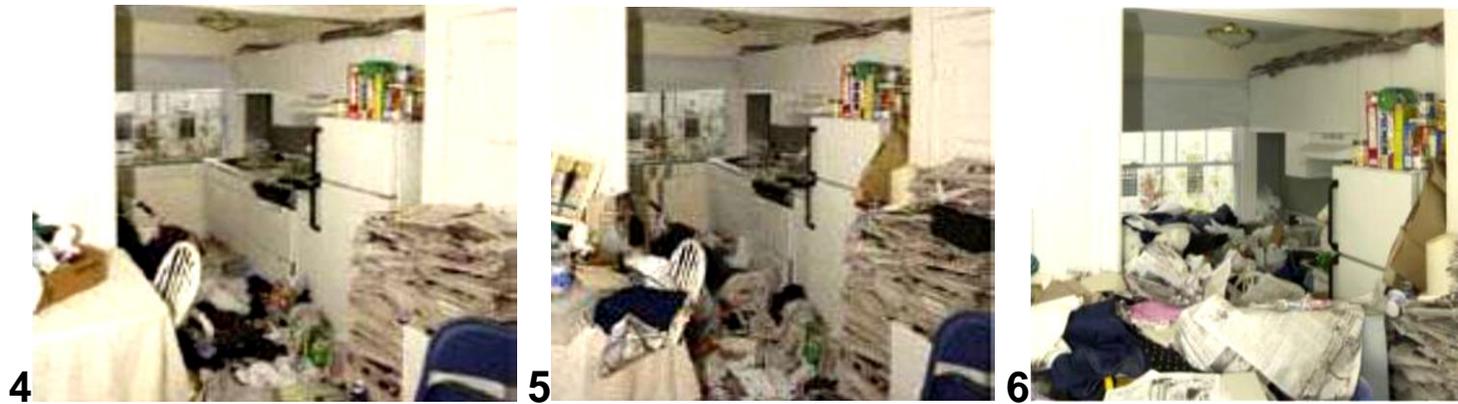


1

Images 2-3 (Ref home and garden level 2)



Images 4-6 (Ref home and garden level 3)



Images 7-9 (Ref home and garden level 4)



Signs of Safety and Wellbeing Assessment and Planning

The Signs of Safety Principles (SOS) places the front-line practitioner as the arbiter of whether intervention works. Relationships with the customer and other professionals are fundamental to ensuring the elements within the SOS approach are meaningful and the customers views are placed at the centre of any decisions and/or actions taken.

Using the three domains below will assist risk based discussions in alignment with the desired outcomes of the customer whilst recognising professional concerns.

1. What are we worried about?	2. What's working well?	3. What needs to happen/safety goals?
<p>Indicators of risk of harm:</p> <p>Action/Behaviour:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severity – How bad is the harm? • Incidence – How long has the concern existed? • Impact – what is the immediate impact of the concern? <p>Danger Statement/s:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who is worried and why? <p>Complicating Factor/s:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What have you seen and heard <p>Or</p>	<p>Strengths:</p> <p>Action/Behaviour:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who is doing what that reduces the worries and how do we know? • What were the first, best and last times these actions/behaviours happened? • Impact – what difference has this made? <p>Existing Safety:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What strengths have been demonstrated as protection • Over time relative to the future danger and equate to safety 	<p>Agency Safety Goal/s:</p> <p>Action/Behaviour:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who must see who doing what and for how long to be satisfied that the person will be safe? <p>Customer Safety Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does the customer want generally and regarding safety? <p>Next Steps:</p> <p>ACTION:</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none">do you know that makes Addressing the worries for the future more difficult to sort out?		Who must do what and when as a next step towards reaching the goal/
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