

Learning previously identified from the thematic review of self-neglect

- **Assessment:** A review (and where necessary revision) of assessment tools/ templates/ guidance used by individual agencies to assist practitioners in assessing need. The aim here should be:
 - To establish a common standard on achieving a holistic view of need, which requires practitioners to look beyond immediate, presenting need to seek a broader understanding of the individual, regardless of their own agency's specific role;
 - To ensure that environmental needs, such as suitable housing, are incorporated within assessment.
- Review of all pathways that may be followed in a case of self-neglect – e.g. multidisciplinary team meetings, MARMs, s.42 safeguarding – in order to ensure that the distinctions between them are clear and are understood, and that there are appropriate points at which a case may transition from one to the other if risk management requires escalation.
- Development of guidance on engaging individuals who may be reluctant to maintain contact with services, including:
 - The use of professional curiosity in seeking to understand their circumstances, including life history and possible trauma that impacts on both their self-neglect and their openness to support;
- Development of a SAB-led protocol for securing expert advice to assist decision-makers when carrying out capacity assessments in circumstances where specialist support would assist (such as in identifying loss of executive function).
- Guidance and standards to support home visiting for practitioners when risks to them from the conditions or circumstances in the home, whether environmental or from other sources, have been identified.
- Consideration at strategic level of the need for local multi-agency/ multi-professional teams (comparable to the children's family intervention service model), to facilitate the more longitudinal and specialised interventions needed to work with people who self-neglect in complex, high-risk circumstances.