



Graded Care Profile 2 – Frequently asked question's

This newsletter has been prepared to answer those frequently asked questions that have been raised by practitioners have about using the GCP2.

What is the Graded Care Profile 2?

The Graded Care Profile 2 is a tool designed to provide an objective measure of the care of children.

What are the differences between the original GCP and the new GCP2?

Some of the language has been changed to make it more accessible. There are some new areas for assessment such as 'obesity' and 'online safety'. The tool has been enhanced to make it easier to understand and use.

What does the GCP2 measure?

The GPC2 measures the quality of care given to an individual child over a short window of time (i.e. it represents the current level of care).

I have used the previous (older) version of the GCP tool – so can I now use this new version of the GCP2?

No, unless a practitioner has completed the training and been satisfactorily assessed by the trainers, it is not possible for them to use the GCP2.

I have not received training in the new GCP2 but wish to do a GCP assessment with a family. What should I do?

Unfortunately, unless a practitioner has attended training and been successfully assessed during the training, it is not possible for them to use the GCP2 tool.

I have done the GCP2 training and I am now accredited to use the GCP2. How do I now get access to copies of the GCP2 tool and the accompanying materials?

If you have done the GCP2 training, your trainers will have supplied you with one set (hard copy) and advised you how you will get access to the documentation by electronic means. Via the Early Help Module (EHM) and Integrated Children's System (ICS). Unfortunately, due to the licencing requirements, it is not possible to put the GCP2 materials on a public-access website.

Which practitioner that is working with a family should undertake the GCP2?

Only those who have received the GCP2 training and been assessed as competent to undertake assessments using the GCP2 can use the tool.

Where there is a multi-agency group of practitioners working with a family, e.g. a Team around the Family or a Core Group, those practitioners may wish to explore who is best placed to use the GCP2 tool, usually the Lead Practitioner. Equally professionals could do the GCP2 assessment together, either co-working the whole assessment or dividing up the assessment between practitioners.

When should the GCP2 be used in Knowsley?

In any agency where there is an 'open case' of suspected/known neglect. This includes in any part of the agency's system e.g. a Looked after Child, in Disability services etc.

- Where a referral about known/suspected neglect is being made to Children's Social Care at level 4 of the threshold document. In this instance as and far as possible, a completed GCP2 should accompany the referral or be underway.
- Where an urgent referral is made without a GCP2, the referrer will undertake or contribute to the GCP2 following referral. Where parents/carers do not consent to the GCP2 being done, the referrer will support the completion of the GCP2 using their knowledge of the family - as long as this is made clear in the records.

- Where a referral about known/suspected neglect is made to Early Help at levels 2 and 3 of the threshold document. In this instance, a completed GCP2 should accompany the referral. Child Protection Conferences where a child/young person:
 - *is placed on a Child Protection Plan under the category of neglect*
 - *is placed on a Child Protection Plan under a different category but where*
 - *neglect is known/suspected*
 - *has not had a completed GCP2 done for known/suspected neglect in the*
 - *previous 3 months*

Can the GCP2 be done retrospectively?

No. The GCP2 is used to measure and assess the current care being given to a child.

Can I use one GCP2 for more than one child?

It is intended that each child in the family has their own GCP2 assessment undertaken. This recognises that different children in the same family are at different ages and stages of development and therefore the care that parents/carers need to provide to them will need to be different.

Can I undertake some parts of the GCP2 and not others?

The GCP2 measures care given to a child across the whole continuum of a child's needs. It is this that supports planning and interventions, so practitioners are clear where the strengths and concerns are in the care given. As such the whole of the GCP2 needs to be undertaken to ensure there is a clear and balanced view about how children's needs are being met.

Naturally if there are aspects which are not relevant for a particular parent or child, then that area should be left out.

What are the timescales for using the GCP2 tool?

Because care of children can fluctuate over time and to avoid results being distorted, the GCP2 should be undertaken over several sessions and through announced and unannounced visits.

It is difficult to pinpoint the exact number of sessions because each family situation will be very different.