

Self-neglect and Hoarding

CVS Safer and Empowered Communities Forum
Wednesday 3rd June 2026





/ Social care / Adults and older people

Adult support and protection

If you think an adult you know is being harmed, we can help. You can tell us, in confidence, and we can take action to protect the person you're worried about.

If you are an adult and you're being harmed, we can help keep you safe.

If you are worried about an adult being harmed, please tell us.

Some examples of the signs that a person may be self-neglecting


- Dehydration
- Malnutrition
- Untreated or improperly attended medical conditions
- Poor personal hygiene
- Hazardous or unsafe living conditions (poor wiring, plumbing, heating etc)
- Unsanitary or unclean living conditions (animal or insect infestation, no toilet, build up of household rubbish)
- Inappropriate or inadequate clothing
- Lack of medical aids or support

Risk-factors associated with the development of self- neglect

- physical or mental illness
- reduced motivation as a side effect of medication
- substance use and addictions
- traumatic life event or loss
- isolation and poor social support
- poor economic circumstances
- poverty and deprivation

Harm Identification (Spotting Harm Early)

Local guidance, tools and Learning and Development



Healthcare.gov

Date: _____
 Client: _____
 Assessor: _____

Home Environment Assessment Tool for Hoarding (HEATH)

Assessment Instructions: Use this tool to assess the home for risky conditions related to hoarding. The HEATH will guide you to assess the level of risk in five categories.

Follow these three steps:

- Visually assess items on the checklist.**
 - Check the "ok" box if the item does not present risk related to hoarding, including if the item is not relevant (e.g., no stairs or interior hallways in the home).
 - Check the "⚠️" box if there is any risk related to hoarding. Make a comment about the risks you observe in the Areas of Concern space.
 - Use the "Other" line within each category to add inspection items that are unique to a specific home or to your professional training.
 - If you cannot see some areas for any reason, including due to conditions in the home, then do not check any box. Make note of this in the **Areas of Concern**.
 - Talk to the resident to get more information if needed.
- Make ratings for each category.**

Based on your training and experience, rate the overall seriousness of the risks you observed in each category. Using the rating scale below, circle the number that reflects your overall rating of risk in the category.

0 = low or no risk: meets common minimum standards for environmental health and safety

1 = moderate risk: health or safety concerns that are important to address

2 = high risk: urgent health or safety concerns

X = not enough information to make an overall rating of this category

Assessment Tips:

 - Context matters. The details of the situation in the home (e.g., building type, whether there are vulnerable occupants, how the home is used) may increase or lower risk compared to the same conditions in a different home.
 - A category may be high risk even if only one item is marked "⚠️" if it represents an urgent health or safety concern. On the other hand, a category may be only moderate risk even if it has multiple items checked as "⚠️" if the areas of concern are not urgent health or safety concerns.
 - Use **"Not assessed"** if you did not observe enough items to make a judgment about degree of risk in that category. In some cases, you may rate a category as high risk even if you were able to observe only one item.
- After completing the overall ratings for each category, write these ratings in the summary table below.** Sum the ratings from the five risk categories to calculate the total score.

Scoring Summary

| Category | Rating |
|----------------------|--------|
| Safe Pathways | |
| Fire Safety | |
| Structural Integrity | |
| Health and Wellness | |
| Sanitation | |
| TOTAL | |

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[2026-Training-Plan-Practitioners-V17.pdf](#)

[LINK TO TRAINING CALENDAR](#)

HARM IDENTIFICATION IMPROVEMENT WORK

TASKS – all partner agencies visiting adults in their homes.

1. **Read** the refreshed Self-neglect and Hoarding Guidance and Toolkit.

- [Self-neglect and Hoarding Guidance](#)
- [Self-neglect and Hoarding Toolkit](#)

1. **Learning how to use** the [Home Environment Assessment Tool for Hoarding \(HEATH\)](#)

Step One: Learn the basics – watch the video introducing the HEATH (6:40) with a copy of the HEATH to hand

Step Two: Learn About Each Domain – Safe Pathways (3:26), Fire Safety (4:37), structural integrity (2:17), health and wellness (2:49) and sanitation (3:22)

Step Three: Practicing and preparing for use – sharing and reflecting with a colleague your first operational use.

Routine inquiry

- Discuss in your group's examples of routine inquiry that you apply in your work to identify less visible or obvious signs of self-neglect
- Do you think there is any changes you could make to your practice to improve this inquiry?
- Is everything ok with you heating and water at home?
- Do you manage to keep your home warm?

REGISTER HERE




**PUBLIC PROTECTION
ACROSS THE LIFESPAN**

Public Protection Lead Officers Webinar June 2026

Join us for our 2026 webinar series.

These are multiagency webinars focussed on Public Protection.
This webinar will have a focus on Gambling Related Harm.

 **Tuesday 23 June, 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm**

 **Online**

 **Anyone can view and join.**

Input will be provided by -

Maria Welsh, Gambling Harms Training and Education Lead, RCA Trust.
The RCA Trust, based in Paisley, is Scotland's main voluntary sector provider of support for gambling-related harm.

They work in collaboration with the National Gambling Support Network (NGSN):
· GamCare · Be Gamble Aware · Fast Forward · Citizens Advice Scotland · Money Advice Scotland · Simon Community Scotland

This 'Bet you can help' input will focus on our collective responsibility to recognise and respond to gambling related harm.

By the end of the webinar, we expect you will understand gambling-related harm, screening and intervention techniques and routes to signposting to support services via the National Gambling Support Network (NGSN)



HOMELESS PREVENTION



ADVICE SUPPORT HELP

- Housing Advice
- Issues at Home
- Stay in Current Home
- Move in a Planned Way
- Making a House a Home
- Money Worries

Please don't worry or
feel ashamed about
asking for help.

Getting help early
could stop you
becoming homeless.

Losing your home
should be the
last option.



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FALKIRK COUNCIL



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