

# Think: Self-Neglect

A learning tool to support practitioners when working with people who self-neglect.

## The person:

Do not presume living with self-neglect is a lifestyle choice.

The person's life experience is likely to include loss and significant

disadvantage. Self-neglect may be a consequence of abuse or trauma.

## Your practice:

Seek the person's story, how they feel now and what they fear and apply your professional curiosity.

Beware the 'quick fix' - building a good relationship first and setting small goals will make any action more successful.

Always interrogate the presumption of capacity if behaviour may cause significant harm and consider whether the person can put decisions into action.

Understand the use of formal powers and their place as a last resort.

Find out what other agencies are involved and develop a multi-agency plan.

## Your role:

There is a clear procedure to follow in EVERY situation.

This can be used irrespective of the person's views.

There is no wrong door – ALL services must respond to risks not simply refer on.

The person is likely to have a history of being excluded or unsupported by services so may find it hard to trust professionals.