



Childhood Neglect

Introduction to new multi-agency
tools and learning opportunities

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HSCP Child Neglect Strategy (Interim)

We aim to recognise, prevent and reduce neglect to improve the safety and wellbeing of children and young people in Herefordshire.

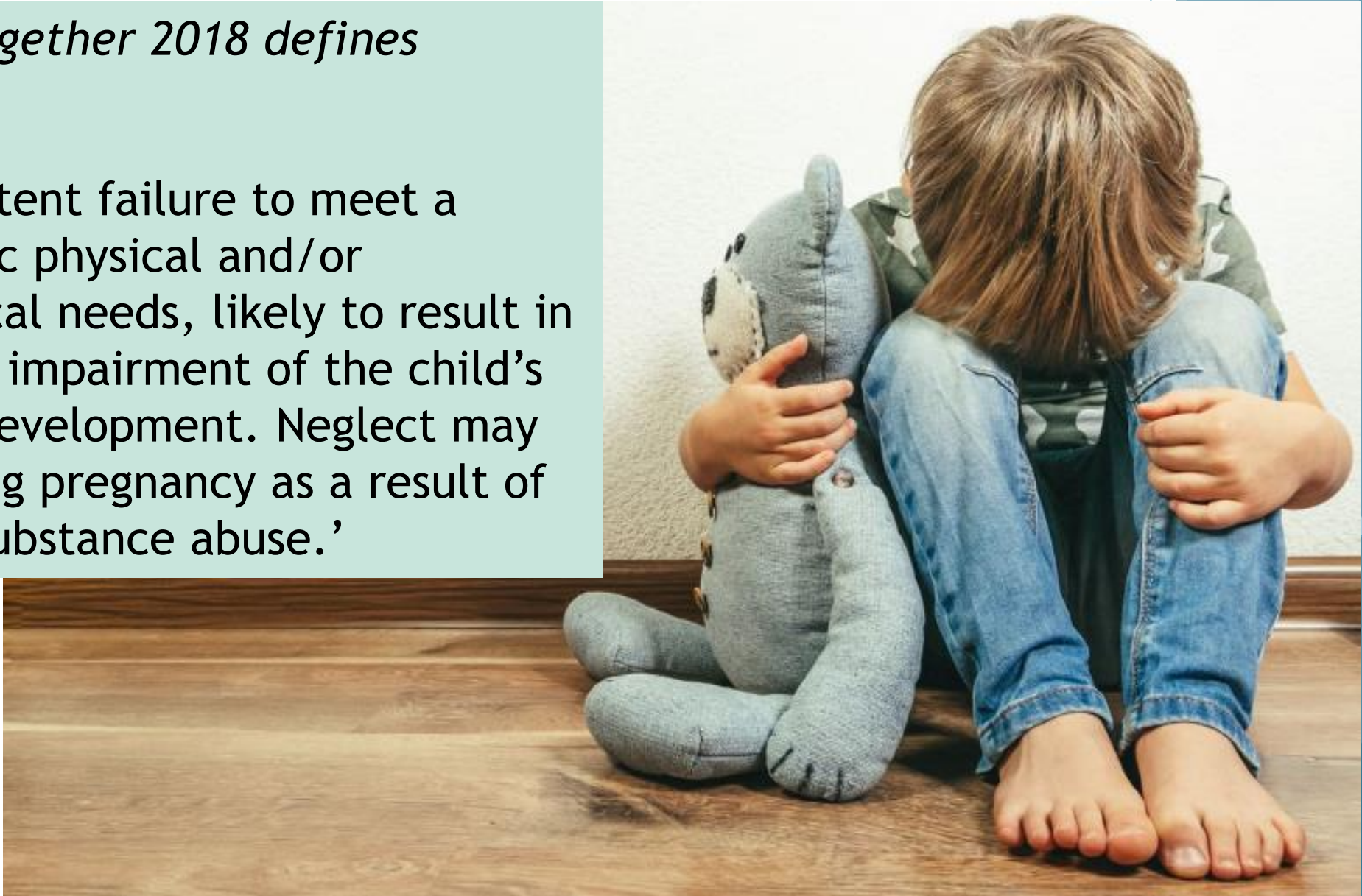
What are we worried about?

- **2nd most common reason for a child to be on a child protection plan in Herefordshire**
- **5,600 children live in poverty, of whom 4,450 under 16s are living in absolute poverty. Highest rates (>25%) in parts of Hereford, Leominster and Ross (JSNA 2021)**
- **There are persistent gaps in educational attainment for disadvantaged children, and for those with EHCP/SEND (JSNA 2021)**
- **Obesity doubles between ages 4-5 (10%) and 10-11 (20%) (JSNA 2021)**
- **More than one in three 5 year-olds have dental decay (JSNA 2021)**
- **The percentage of young people aged 16 to 18 not in education, employment or training is worse than England at 9.2% (JSNA 2021)**

What is child neglect?

Working Together 2018 defines neglect as:

‘The persistent failure to meet a child’s basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child’s health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse.’



What is child neglect?

Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

- provide adequate food, clothing and shelter
- protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger
- ensure adequate supervision
- ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

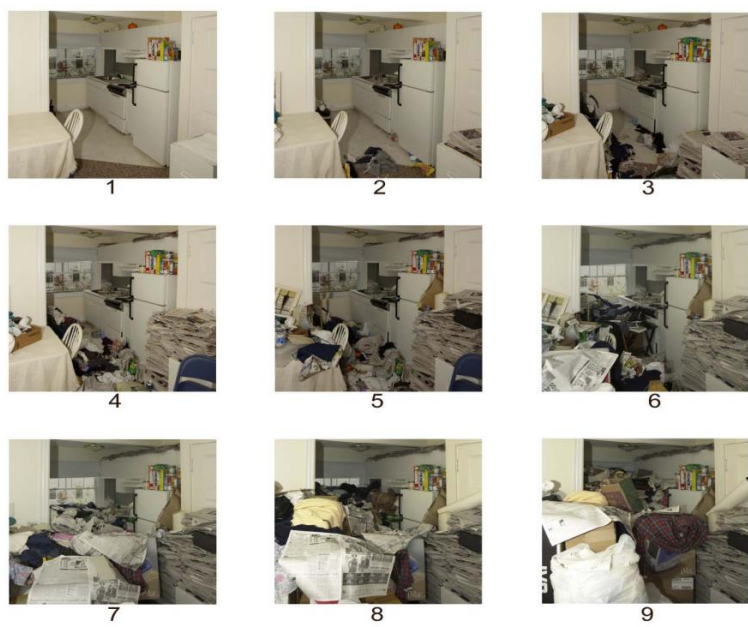
Neglected children...

- ..have some of the poorest long term health and developmental outcomes
- ..are at high risk of accidents
- ..are vulnerable to sexual abuse
- ..are likely to have insecure attachment patterns
- ..are less likely than other children to:
 - develop the characteristics associated with resilience
 - or have access to wider protective factors

LAG

Lag is the delay between the neglect starting and the affect becoming evident.

This can make it difficult to demonstrate the impact that neglect is having on a child.



What forms might child neglect take?



Professionals did not always **recognise signs** of neglect and treated issues in isolation.

Indicators included:

- tooth decay
- repeated episodes of headlice
- accidental injuries
- faltering weight gain or weight loss
- speech delay
- poor school attendance
- missed health appointments
- unsuitable home environment
- dirty or inadequate clothing.

Professionals didn't always have a full picture of the adults in a child's life. There was often **limited information about fathers or male carers.**

Sometimes the behaviour of **hostile or aggressive parents** went unchallenged due to fear of confrontation. In other cases, parents would comply with just enough requests to allay concerns.

Engaging with families



**What is
stopping the
parent from
engaging?**

Recent Herefordshire case reviews

Serious Case Review “Louise”

- 18 months old
- Serious head injury that had a life-changing impact
- When the injury occurred, Louise was being cared for by her mother’s partner.
- Prior to the incident, there were concerns about domestic abuse and child neglect.

Serious Case Review “Matthew”

- 1 year and 7 months old
- Ingested medication used to treat psychosis
- Prior to the incident, there were concerns about child neglect, and there was a history of domestic abuse, mental health problems and substance use in the family.

Findings

- the child's lived experiences
- information considered in isolation
- new partners
- professional curiosity
- professional challenge
- declining offers of Early Help



New Child Neglect Resources and Training....

Training....

**Understanding
Child Neglect**
New

**Graded
Care Profile
2**

**GCP2 –
refresher**
New

**Solihull
Approach**

**Triple P
Parenting**

New Child Neglect Resources and Training....

Policies and Procedures....

**West Midlands
Policies &
Procedures -
Child Neglect**

**Herefordshire
Right Help
Right Time
Levels of Need**

New Child Neglect Resources and Training....

Practice Tools and Resources....

**Child
Neglect
Screening
Tool**
NEW

**Graded
Care
Profile 2**

**A Day in
My Life**
New

**Multi-
agency
Chronology
Tool**
UPDATED

**Child
Neglect
Quick
Guide -**
UPDATED

Listening to Children

‘What is life like for this child in this family?’



‘How do you know this?’








***Be curious.
Find new
ways to hear***



A Day in the Life Tool

A day in the life of..... Date

	When I wake up.....
	Breakfast....
	Dressing....
	Child Care...
	At home

Closed Question = When do you eat dinner?

Alternative Open Question = What happens in the evenings in your house?

Closed Question = How do you get to school?

Alternative Open Question = Can you tell me what the mornings are like? What happens when you wake up?

I have enough clothes and they fit me.

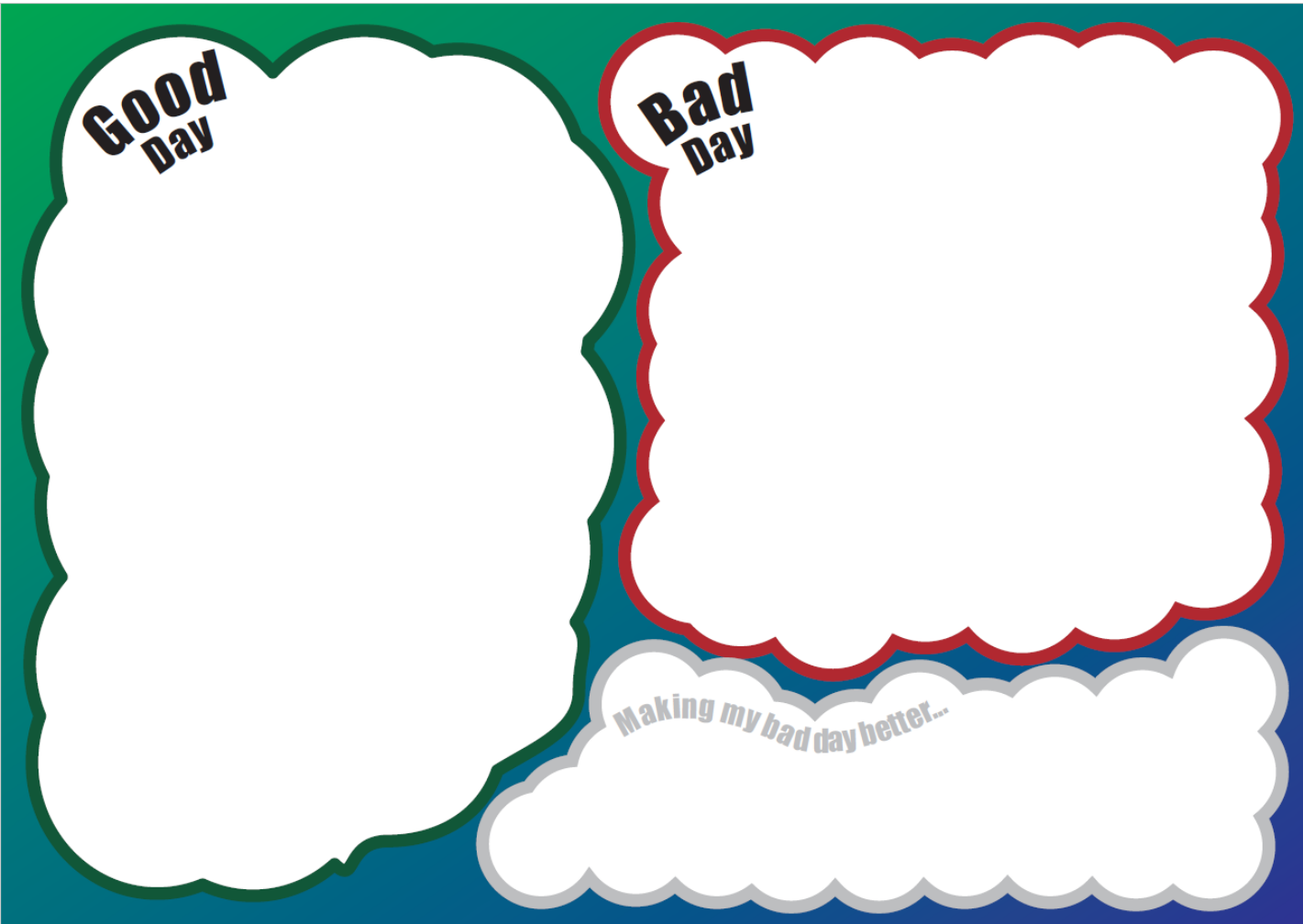
My clothes are clean.

I go out with my friends.

I go out with my mum/dad/carers and siblings at weekends and in the holidays.

I eat dinner with my family.

Always	Sometimes	Never



Feelings Game




How to play...



- Roll your die
- Look at the square you have landed on
- ? Tell us when you have felt like that... What happened? What did you do?

Challenge Squares!

-  If you land on any of these squares you have to take on the special challenges!
- Land exactly on the last square to win!

START

scared	angry	happy	Do a dance!	sad	Ha Ha Ha Tell a funny joke!
excited	worried	angry	happy	Pull a funny face!	excited
sad	Do an impression of your favourite animal	scared	worried	scared	angry
Sing a song!	excited	Play air guitar!	sad	worried	happy

FINISH

Child Neglect Screening Tool

Child Neglect Screening Tool

Child Neglect Screening Tool					
Area of concern (examples are given as a guide only)	Not Concerned	Partly Concerned	Very Concerned	Not known	Details of concern for this child (include any specific reasoning, evidence and observations)
1. Child's weight - Are you concerned about the child being under or overweight? - Is the child's fitness a concern?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Child's access to adequate food - Do you have concerns about the availability of food in the home? - Are there concerns about the quality (nutritious) and quantity of food provided?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. Home conditions - Is the house and garden poorly maintained; are there signs of disrepair that impact upon the child? - Is there clutter or signs of hoarding? (use Clutter Image Rating Scale – 4 and above is cause for concern) - Is the house overcrowded? - <u>Does the cleanliness of the home cause concern? Is it smelly and/or dirty?</u> - Is there untreated <u>mould</u> ? - Are there concerns about facilities for cooking, storing food, washing and heating?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Child's sleeping arrangements - Does the child have nowhere to sleep/no bedding/insufficient bedding/dirty bedding? - Does the child's sleep pattern cause concern? Is there no (age appropriate) bedtime routine? - Is the child co-sleeping?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Graded Care Profile 2



Always met



Met



Met most of the time



Not met most of the time



Never met

A1 Nutrition

1.1 Quality

● Parent/carer is aware and proactive; provides excellent quality food and drink.	● Parent/carer is aware and manages to provide reasonable quality food and drink.	● Parent/carer provides reasonable quality food but inconsistent through lack of awareness or effort.	● Parent/carer mainly provides poor quality fattening or sugary foods, occasionally food is of reasonable standards if under pressure from professionals.	● Quality not a consideration at all or lies about quality.
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1.2 Quantity

● Ample.	● Adequate.	● Most of the time quantity of food is of an adequate amount – but at times can be variable.	● Variable to low or too much food is offered.	● Child is mostly starved or routinely overfed.
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1.3 Diet for children with specific requirements

● Specific dietary requirements are fully met, proactive but balanced approach.	● Specific dietary requirements are fully met.	● Most of the time specific dietary requirements are met.	● Most of the time the specific dietary requirements are not met.	● Specific dietary requirements not met or ignored.
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1.4 Preparation

● Painsstakingly cooks and prepares food, the child is always put first.	● Food is well prepared for whole family, always meeting the child's needs.	● Most of the time the preparation is adequate although it can be variable.	● Most of the time the preparation is not adequate, child's needs are not taken into account.	● No preparation or effort is made, the child lives off snacks and cereals, eating when and what they can.
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1.5 Organisation

● Meals elaborately	● Well organised, family	● Most of the time there	● Most of the times meals	● No organisation, chaotic,
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Use Graded Care Profile 2 - [see overview video](#)

Concerned About a Child?

Child Neglect Practitioner Resources - Herefordshire Safeguarding Boards and Partnerships

Home » [Professional Resources](#) » [Children's Policies & Guidance](#) » Child Neglect Practitioner Resources

Child Neglect Practitioner Resources

The Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership has developed a series of resources and tools to help practitioners identify and respond to child neglect.



Child Neglect Quick Guide

Read our Quick Guide on Child Neglect for a brief understanding of what child neglect is, how it impacts on children, signs of neglect, and what you should do as a professional.

For more detailed guidance, visit the Child Neglect section of the [West Midlands Regional Procedures](#).

[Neglect Quick Guide HSCP](#)

Child Neglect Screening Tool (Practitioner)

The Child Neglect Screening Tool is for front line practitioners from all partner agencies in

[Child Neglect Screening Tool](#)

Pages

- [HSCP Voice of the Child Participation Toolkit](#)
- [Signs of Safety in Herefordshire](#)
- [Child Neglect Practitioner Resources](#)

A Day in My Life

The Day in My Life tool can be used in variety of ways to draw out the daily lived experience of the child. This helps to understand what is happening in families where child neglect is a concern, and what actions might lead to improved outcomes for children.

The Guidance document provides an overview of how to use the tool. There are a number of templates provided that can be used flexibly in how you approach this exercise with children, young people or families.

With thanks to W. Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership for use of some of their materials.

[A Day in My Life Tool Guidance](#)

[A Day in My Life - Prompt Areas and Questions](#)

Day Sheet Templates

- [A-day-in-my-life-template-simple-school-d](#)
- [A-Day-in-my-life-Pre-birth-Questions](#)
- [A-day-in-my-life-baby-template](#)
- [A-day-in-my-life-pre-school-template](#)
- [A-day-in-my-life-school-age-template](#)
- [A-day-in-my-life-teenagers-template](#)
- [A-day-in-my-life-child-with-disabilities-template](#)

Picture Prompt Cards

- [Picture-Prompts-Pre-School-Early-Primary Child](#)
- [Picture-Prompts-Primary-School-Child](#)
- [Picture-Prompts-Teenager](#)
- [Picture-Prompts-Child-with-a-Disability](#)

[Always-sometimes-never-template](#)

[Emojis](#)

[Good Bad Day template](#)

[Feelings game](#)

Herefordshire CHAT (Children's Help and Advice Team)

01432 260261 or earlyhelpcontacts@herefordshire.gov.uk

Early Help Multi-Agency Meetings (EH MAGs)



Family Pastors



Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust

Perinatal Mental Health Team - Herefordshire



NEW Understanding Child Neglect - ½ day, multi-agency virtual course

- WEDNESDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2023 (9.30 - 13.00)
- TUESDAY 5 DECEMBER 2023 (9.30 - 13.00)
- +2024 DATES TBC

<https://www.herefordshirecpd.co.uk>

