**Hoarding threshold tool**

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| **1 The vulnerability of the person** | |
| Questions: | |
| Does the person have capacity to make decisions with regard to care provision/housing etc? Does the person have a diagnosed mental illness? Does the person have support from family or friends? Does the person accept care and treatment? Does the person have insight into the problems they face? | |
| Assessment: | |
| Less vulnerable | More vulnerable |

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| **2 Level of hoarding** | | |
| Considerations: | | |
| Determine if the hoarding is:   * A fire risk. * Impacting on the person’s wellbeing ([Care Act 2014 definition](http://adults.ccinform.co.uk/legislation/care-act-2014/section-1-promoting-individual-well/)). * Preventing access to emergency services. * Affecting the person’s ability to cook, clean and be hygienic. * Creating limited access to main areas of the house. * Putting the person at increased risk of falls.   (See clutter image rating scale for hoarding) | | |
| Assessment: | | |
| Low risk | Moderate risk | High risk |

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| **3 Background to hoarding** | | |
| Considerations: | | |
| * Does the person have a disability that means they cannot care for themselves? * Does the person have mental health issues and to what extent? * Has this been a long-standing problem? * Does the person engage with services, support and guidance offered? * Are there social isolation issues? | | |
| Assessment: | |  |
| Low impact | Seriously affected |  |

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| **4 Impact on others** | | |
| Considerations: | | |
| Others may be affected by the hoarding. Determine whether:   * There are other vulnerable people (children or adults) in the house who are affected by their hoarding. * The hoarding prevents the person from seeing family and friends. * There are animals within the property that are not being appropriately cared for. | | |
| Assessment: | | |
| No one else affected | Others indirectly affected | Others directly affected |

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| **5 Reasonable suspicion of abuse** | | |
| Considerations: | | |
| Determine if there is reason to suspect:   * That the hoarding is an indicator that the person may be being abused. * The person may be targeted for abuse by local people. * That a crime may be taking place. * That the person is being neglected by someone else. * That safeguarding is required. | | |
| Assessment: | | |
| No suspicion | Indicators present | Reasonable suspicion |

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| **6 Legal frameworks** | | |
| Considerations: | | |
| Try to determine whether:   * The person is at risk of eviction, fines, or non-payment issues. * There is an environmental risk that requires action – public health issues. * There are safeguarding and animal welfare issues. * Fire risks that are a danger to others. | | |
| Assessment: | | |
| No current legal issues | Some minor legal issues not currently impacting | Serious legal issues |