

Level 1 – Universal Needs
No additional support needs

Features	ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES	Assessment Process
<p>Children with Level 1 needs</p> <p>Children with no additional needs and where there are no concerns.</p> <p>Typically these children are likely to live in a resilient and protective environment where their needs are met. These children will require no additional support beyond that which is universally available.</p> <p>These indicators need to be kept in mind when assessing the significance of indicators from Level 2-4</p>	Parent or Carers Capacity	<p>These children require no additional support beyond that which is universally available. A Child & Family Assessment is not needed for these children.</p> <p>Examples of key universal services that provide support at this level:</p> <p>Education Children's Centres Family Centres & Early Years Health Visiting Service Midwifery School Nursing GP Play Services Integrated Youth Support Services Police Housing Voluntary & Community Sector</p>
	<p>Basic Care, Safety and Protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents/carers able to provide care for child's needs <p>Emotional Warmth and Stability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents/carers provide secure and caring parenting <p>Guidance Boundaries and Stimulation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents/carers provide guidance and boundaries to help child develop appropriate values 	
	Family and Environmental Factors	
	<p>Family History and Well-Being</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supportive family relationships <p>Housing, Employment and Finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child fully supported financially, accessing all welfare benefits Adequate housing <p>Social and Community Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social and friendship networks exist. Safe and secure environment Access to regular and positive activities 	
	Child or Young Person's Developmental Needs	
	<p>Learning/Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendance at school/college/training (above 90%) Acquired a range of skills/interests, experiences of success/achievement No barriers to learning Sound home/school link No concerns around cognitive development <p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physically healthy, developmental checks up to date Adequate and nutritious diet, regular dental and optical care Good state of mental health <p>Social, Emotional, Behavioural, Identity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrates age appropriate responses in feelings and actions Good quality early attachments, child is appropriately comfortable in social situations Knowledgeable about the effects of crime and antisocial behaviour (age appropriate) Able to adapt to change Able to demonstrate empathy Positive sense of self and abilities <p>Family and Social Relationships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stable and affectionate relationships with caregivers Good core relationships with siblings Positive relationships with peers <p>Self-Care and Independence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing age appropriate level of practical and independent living skills Appropriate dress for different settings - allowing for age Good level of personal hygiene Able to discriminate between 'safe' and 'unsafe' contacts Knowledgeable about sex and relationships and consistent use of contraception if sexually active (age appropriate) 	

Level 2 – vulnerable
Children with additional support needs requiring targeted support

Features	ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES NB In assessing need and risk that require additional services, multiple factors are likely to be present	Assessment Process
<p>Children with Level 2 needs</p> <p>These children can be defined as needing some additional support without which they would be at risk of not meeting their full potential. Their identified needs may relate to their health, educational, or social development, and are likely to be short term needs.</p> <p>If ignored these issues may develop into more worrying concerns for the child or young person. These children will be living in greater adversity than most other children or have a greater degree of vulnerability than most</p> <p>If their needs are not clear, not known or not being met and multi-agency intervention is required, a lead professional will be identified to coordinate a plan around the child.</p> <p>Timescale These should</p>	<p>Parent or Carers Capacity</p>	<p>NB Complete the pre-assessment checklist if unsure whether the child needs an Early Help or Child & Family assessment.</p> <p>The Early Help Hub receives contacts via the 'Front Door' referrals for early help interventions from the MARF contact form, self-referral, police notifications and step downs.</p> <p>The Early Help Hub completes a pre-assessment. If the level of need is Tier 2 the referral is taken to the Early Help Hub who will signpost onto the relevant service or will complete an Early Help assessment to work with the family to complete an action plan. The receiving worker will be the Lead Professional. The action plan should identify the child's additional needs, any further appropriate services and interventions to meet those needs.</p> <p>The Lead Professional and the family may feel that there is a need for a TAF based on more than one service needing to offer targeted support to</p>
	<p>Basic Care, Safety and Protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requiring support to provide consistent care e.g. safe and appropriate childcare arrangements; safe and hygienic home conditions; adequate diet. Parental health problems that may impact on child's health or development unless appropriate support provided Parental mental health issues that may impact on the health or development of the child unless appropriate support provided Parental learning difficulties that may impact on the health or development of the child unless appropriate support provided Parental health / disability that may impact on the health or development of the child unless appropriate support provided Parental substance misuse that may impact on the health or development of the child unless appropriate support provided Poor engagement with universal services likely to impact on child's health or development Parents/carers have had additional support to care for previous child/young person Poor supervision and attention to safety issues 	
	<p>Emotional Warmth and Stability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requiring support for consistent parenting regarding praise and discipline, where the child's development is not yet being impaired Lack of response to concerns raised about child's welfare 	
	<p>Guidance Boundaries and Stimulation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requiring support for consistent parenting in respect to routine and boundary setting Parent has age inappropriate expectations that child or young person should be self-reliant Lack of response to concerns raised about child Lack of appropriate parental guidance and boundaries for child's stage of development and maturity 	
	<p>Family and Environmental Factors</p>	
	<p>Family and Social Relationships and Family Well-Being</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents/carers have relationship difficulties which may affect the child Parents/carers request advice to manage their child's behaviour Children affected by difficult family relationships Child is a teenage parent Child is a young carer Low level concerns about domestic abuse Parent was a Looked After Child (LAC) Large family with several young children under five <p>Housing, Employment and Finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overcrowding (as per local housing guidelines) that has a potential impact on child's health or development Families affected by low income /living with poverty affecting access to appropriate services to meet child's additional needs Low income plus adverse additional factors which affect the child's development Housing is in poor state of repair or severely overcrowded Family unable to gain employment due to significant lack of basic skills 	

<p>be short term interventions (up to 6 months) and reviewed on a regular basis. If longer support is required you should discuss needs with specialist services and may need to move into Level 3.</p>	<p>or long term difficulties</p> <p>Social Integration and Community Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient facilities to meet needs e.g. advice / support needed to access services for disabled child where parent is coping otherwise • Family require advice regarding social exclusion e.g. hate crimes, harassment, and disputes in the community • Child associating with peers who are involved in anti-social or criminal behaviour • Limited access to contraceptive and sexual health advice, information and services • Family demonstrating low level anti-social behaviour towards others • Parents/carers are socially excluded, have no access to local facilities and require support services 	<p>the family. The referral may be stepped up to social work at any point during the early help process.</p> <p>Exit strategy The TAF should aim to enable the child and family's move back to universal services' support</p>
<p>A child and family may need a number of these short term supports over the child's development through their childhood as their needs change.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Child or Young Person's Developmental Needs</p> <p>Learning/Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occasional truanting, non-attendance or punctuality issues, attendance below 90% • Requires SEN support • Identified language and communication difficulties linked to other unmet needs • Lack of adequate Parent/Carer support for child's learning • Lack of age appropriate stimulation and opportunities to learn • Few or no qualifications leading to NEET (not in education, employment or training) • Child/young person under undue parental pressure to achieve/aspire • No aspiration for young person • Not educated at school (or at home by Parents/Carers) • The child's current rate of progress is inadequate, despite receiving appropriate early education experiences <p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns about reaching developmental milestones • Not attending routine appointments e.g. immunisations and developmental checks • Persistent minor health problems • Missing set appointments across health including antenatal, hospital and GP appointments • Low level mental health or emotional issues requiring Tier 2 intervention <p>Social, Emotional, Behavioural, Identity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emerging anti-social behaviour and attitudes and/or low level offending • Child is victim of bullying or bullies others • Expressing wish to become pregnant at young age • Low level substance misuse (current or historical) • Low self esteem • Limited peer relationships/social isolation • Expressing thoughts of running away • Received fixed penalty notice, reprimand, final warning or triage of diversionary intervention. • Disruptive / challenging behaviour at school or in neighbourhood • Behavioural difficulties requiring further investigation / diagnosis <p>Self-Care and Independence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of age appropriate behaviour and independent living skills that increase vulnerability to social exclusion • Early onset of sexual activity (13-14); sexually active young person (15+) with some risk taking behaviours e.g. inconsistent use of contraception • Low level alcohol / substance misuse (current or historical) • Some evidence of risky use of technology leading to E-safety concerns 	<p>Key agencies that may provide support at this level:</p> <p>Universal and targeted Early Help Hub Youth Crime Preventative services YOT/YOS Police Targeted drug and alcohol information, advice and education, including advice re harm reduction Health, e.g. HV, GP, midwifery, School Nurse Tier 2 CAMHS Sure Start or Children's Centres Education Early Years Educational psychology Educational welfare Specialist play services Integrated Youth Support & Extended Services Voluntary & community services Early Intervention for Family Services Early Support Programme</p>

**Level 3 – complex Children in Need
Requiring Specialist Support**

Features	ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES In assessing need and risk that require specialist services, multiple factors are likely to be present	Assessment Process
<p>This Level applies to those children identified as requiring specialist support. It is likely that for these children their needs and care are at present very significantly compromised.</p> <p>Only a small fraction of children will fall within this band. These children will be those who are highly vulnerable or experiencing the greatest level of adversity.</p> <p>Child in Need: These children may be eligible for a Child in Need service from Children's Social Care and are potentially at risk of developing acute/complex needs if they do not receive early statutory intervention. If a social worker is allocated they will usually act as the lead professionals and coordinate services.</p> <p>Definition: Section 17 of the 1989 Children Act</p> <p>'is unlikely to achieve or maintain a reasonable standard of</p>	<p align="center">Parents or Carers Capacity</p> <p>Basic Care, Safety and Protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent/Carer is unable to meet child's needs even with support and not providing adequate care • Serious concern that an unborn child is at risk of significant harm • Chronic or acute neglect where food, warmth and other basics are often not available • Parent/Carer has mental health difficulties that has a direct impact on child's health or development • Parent/Carer substance misuse that has a direct impact on child's health or development. • Parental learning difficulties that have a direct impact on child's health or development • Parental health / disability that has a direct impact on child's health or development • Child exposed to contact with individuals who pose a risk of physical or sexual harm to children • History of previous child protection concerns <p>Emotional Warmth and Stability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent is emotionally unavailable • Succession of carers or child/young person has multiple carers, but no significant relationships with any of them • Inappropriate child care arrangement • Inconsistent parenting impairing emotional and behavioural development • Parental instability affects capacity to nurture • Parents/carers own emotional needs compromise those of the child/young person <p>Guidance Boundaries and Stimulation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child/young person receives little positive stimulation despite appropriate toys being available • Parents/carers provide inconsistent boundaries or present a negative role model which seriously impacts on child's development 	<p>The assessment process will be a children's social care Child & Family assessment based on referrals from a MARF referral forms, self-referral and police notifications</p> <p>Children's Social Care will decide on their response based on the information supplied in the referral and any joint decision making via the multi-agency MASH.</p> <p>If appropriate they will complete a Child in Need Plan. Following this the case may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be actioned • lead to a further assessment <p>Key agencies that may provide support at this level:</p> <p>Children's Services Other statutory service e.g. SEN services Specialist health or disability services Police Youth Offending Team / Service Targeted drug and alcohol services CAMHS Family support services Voluntary & community services Services at</p>
	<p align="center">Family and Environmental Factors</p> <p>Family and Social Relationships and Family Well-being</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic Abuse where the risk to the victim is assessed as standard/medium risk (DASH) and the child is present within the home during the incident • An initial domestic abuse incident is reported but the victim discloses details of historic abuse with children resident/normally resident • Child is privately fostered • Unaccompanied asylum seeking children • Child subject to a court application where a Section 7 or Section 37 report has been ordered to be completed by children's social care • Pre-birth assessment where there is a history of past child protection concerns • Risk of family relationship breakdown leading to need for child to become looked after outside of family network • Child is a young carer requiring assessment of additional needs • Child requires assessment for respite care service due to family circumstances and has no appropriate friend / relative carer available to support 	

<p>health or development'</p> <p>'health or development is likely to be significantly impaired'</p> <p>Child moving out of complex needs with an agreed action plan without the provision of LA services</p> <p>Or she/he is disabled.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents/carers are unable or unwilling to continue to care for the child <p>Housing, Employment and Finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Homeless child in need of accommodation including 16-17 year olds Extreme financial difficulties impacting on ability to have basic needs met No access to funding/community resources Family at risk of eviction having already received support from Housing services without the provision of LA services <p>Social and Community Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child or family need immediate support and protection due to harassment/discrimination and have no local support Significant levels of targeted hostility towards the child and their family, and conflict/volatility within neighbourhood <p style="text-align: center;">Child or Young Person's Developmental Needs</p> <p>Learning / Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child not in education, in conjunction with concerns for child's safety Chronic non-attendance/truanting/authorised absences/fixed term exclusions Statement of Special Educational Needs <p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chronic/recurring health problems with missed appointments, routine and not routine Child with a disability in need of assessment and support to access appropriate specialist services Serious delay in achieving physical and other developmental milestones, raising significant concerns Frequent accidental injuries to child requiring hospital treatment Mental health issues requiring referral to CAMHS, including self-harm or suicidal thoughts Poor or restricted diet despite interventions Child has chronic health problems or high level disability which with extra support may/may not be maintained in a mainstream setting Learning significantly affected by health problems Significant dental decay that has not been treated <p>Social, Emotional, Behavioural, Identity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child with serious level of unexplained and inappropriate sexualised behaviour Child is at risk of sexual exploitation Child missing from home and concerns raised about their physical and emotional safety and welfare Child whose behaviour is putting them at risk, including substance and alcohol misuse Evidence of regular/frequent substance misuse which may combine with other risk factors Evidence of escalation of substance use and of changing attitudes and more disregard to risk Continuous breeches of curfew / order with other risk taking behaviours that impact on the child's welfare and safety Frequently goes missing from home Failure or inability to address serious offending/reoffending behaviour leading to risk of serious harm to self or others Child/young person out of control in the community <p>Self-care and independence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child suffers accidental injury as a result of inadequate supervision Child found wandering without adequate supervision Child expected to be self-reliant for their own basic needs or those of their siblings beyond their capabilities, placing them at potential risk Severe lack of age appropriate behaviour 	<p>universal level Early Support Programme</p> <p>Exit strategy A TAF may also be required to support child moving out of complex needs with an agreed plan. This could include continuing multi-agency support coordinated by a Lead Professional to enable the child and family's move back to universal services</p>
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**Level 4 – Acute:
Level of Need requiring Child Protection**

Features	ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES In assessing need and risk that require intensive specialist services, multiple factors are likely to be present	Assessment Process
<p>Children with Level 4 Needs</p> <p>Children requiring specialist/statutory integrated support</p> <p>Child Protection</p> <p>Children experiencing significant harm that requires statutory intervention such as child protection or legal intervention. These children may also need to be accommodated (taken into care) by the Family Services/Children’s Social Care either on a voluntary basis or by way of Court Order</p> <p>Definition</p> <p>Section 47 of the 1989 Children Act. Child or young person. Where a child is at risk of significant harm through neglect, physical, emotional or sexual abuse.</p> <p>Process</p> <p>Agencies should make a verbal referral to the Wokingham referral and assessment team and accompany this with a written MARF referral form</p>	<p>Parents or Carers Capacity</p>	<p>Children’s Services and the multi-agency MASH will decide on their response based on the verbal as repeated in the written MARF notification form. A decision will be made within 24 hours, In the case of suspected abuse they will follow the Working Together procedures as laid out in the Wokingham Safeguarding Children Procedures. A S47 enquiry can be called at any stage in the process. On the basis of a Child & Family Assessment a decision will be made whether to hold a S47 child protection enquiry that could result in a Child Protection Conference.</p> <p>Key agencies that may provide support at this level:</p> <p>Children’s Services – Social care, Fostering, Adoption Teams Family Group Conferencing Service Police Other statutory service e.g. SEN services; Education & Child Psychology Specialist health or disability services Youth Offending Team Domestic Abuse, Targeted drug and alcohol services CAMHS Family support</p>
	<p>Basic Care, Safety and Protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents/carers are unable to care for the child • Parents/carers have or may have abused/neglected the child/young person • Pre-birth assessment indicates unborn child is at risk of significant harm • Parents’ own needs mean they cannot keep child/young person safe • Parent unable to restrict access to home by adults known to be a risk to children and other adults • Child/young person left in the care of an adult known or suspected to be a risk to children, or lives in the same house as the child • Low warmth, high criticism is an enduring feature of the parenting style • Parent’s own emotional needs/experiences persistently impact on their ability to meet the child/young person’s needs • Parent/Carer has mental health issues, including self-harming behaviour, that present a risk of significant harm to the child • Parent/Carers’ substance misuse that presents a risk of significant harm to the child • Parental learning difficulties that present a risk of significant harm to the child • Parental health / disability that presents a risk of significant harm to the child <p>Emotional Warmth and Stability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliberate cruelty or emotional ill treatment of a child resulting in significant harm • Child is continually the subject of negative comments and criticism, or is used as a scapegoat by a Parent/Carer, resulting in feelings of low worth and self-esteem and seriously impacting on the child’s emotional and psychological development. • Previous child/young person(s) have been removed from parent’s care <p>Guidance Boundaries and Stimulation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of appropriate supervision resulting in significant harm to a child • Child is given responsibilities that are inappropriate for their age / level of maturity resulting in significant harm to the child • Adult in a position of trust, staff member or volunteer behaves in a way that results in harm to a child, or that might indicate unsuitability to work with children 	
	<p>Family and Environmental Factors</p>	
	<p>Family and Social Relationships and Family Well-Being</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment identifies risk of physical, emotional, sexual abuse or neglect • History of previous significant harm to children, including any concerns of previous child deaths • Family characterised by conflict and serious, chronic relationship difficulties • Parent/Carer has unresolved mental health difficulties which affect 	

	<p>the wellbeing of the child</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult victim of Domestic Abuse is assessed as high level risk (DASH) and the child (including unborn) is at risk of significant harm • Child's carer referred to MARAC • Members of the wider family are known to be, or suspected of being, a risk to children • Child needs to be looked after outside of their immediate family or parents/carers due to abuse / neglect <p>Housing, Employment and Finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hygiene conditions within the home present a serious and immediate environmental / health risk to children 	<p>services Voluntary & community Services Services at universal level</p> <p>Exit strategy</p> <p>Children's Services will work with the child and their family either to reduce the risk to a child in need and ultimately a move out of statutory intervention as described in Level 3, or will embark on Court Proceedings to accommodate the child or young person in a kinship, fostering or residential placement, or to place the child for adoption</p>
<p>Child or Young Person's Developmental Needs</p>		
	<p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents/carers refusal to recognise or address high level disability, serious physical and/or emotional health problems • Carers refusing medical care endangering life/development • Child not accessing appropriate medical care which puts them at direct risk of significant harm • Concerns that a child is suffering or likely to suffer harm as a result of fabricated or induced illness • Sexually Transmitted Infection in a child under 13 • Child who is suspected to having suffered inflicted, or serious unexplained, injuries <p>Social, Emotional, Behavioural, Identity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenging behaviour resulting in serious risk to the child and others • Child/young person beyond parental control – regularly absconds from home and places self at risk of significant harm • Failure or inability to address complex mental health issues requiring specialist interventions • Under 13 engaged in sexual activity • Subject to sexual exploitation under 18 years of age • Is missing from home for repeated short periods of time or prolonged periods • Young people experiencing current harm through their use of substances • Young people with complicated substance misuse problems requiring specific interventions and/or child protection <p>Self-Care and Independence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child is left "home alone" without adequate adult supervision or support and at risk of significant harm • Distorted self- image and lack of independent living skills likely to result in significant harm 	