

Level 1 – Universal Needs No additional support needs		
	Indicators	Assessment Process
<p><b>Children with Level 1 Needs</b></p> <p>Children with no additional needs and where there are no concerns. 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 levels 2-4</p>	<p><b>Parents or Carers Capacity</b></p> <p><b>Basic Care Safety and Protection</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parents/Carers able to provide care for child's needs and protect from danger in the home and elsewhere</li> </ul> <p><b>Emotional Warmth and Stability</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parents/Carers provide secure and caring parenting and show warmth, praise and encouragement.</li> </ul> <p><b>Guidance Boundaries and Stimulation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parents/Carers provide guidance and boundaries to help child develop appropriate values</li> </ul> <p><b>Family and Environmental Factors</b></p> <p><b>Family History and Well-Being</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supportive family relationships that provide a positive sense of wellbeing for all family members</li> </ul> <p><b>Housing Employment and Finance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sufficient income to meet the family's essential needs, used appropriately</li> <li>Adequate housing with at least basic amenities</li> </ul> <p><b>Social and Community Resources</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social and friendship networks exist</li> <li>Positive peer groups</li> <li>Access to health, education, social and community services in the neighbourhood</li> </ul> <p><b>Child or Young Person's Developmental Needs</b></p> <p><b>Learning/Education</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access to education provision appropriate to age and ability</li> <li>Access to employment (including work based learning) appropriate to age and ability</li> <li>Acquiring a range of skills/interests, experiences of success/achievement</li> <li>Access to books/toys, play</li> </ul> <p><b>Health</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physically well</li> <li>Developmental checks/immunisations up to date</li> <li>Health appointments are kept</li> <li>Adequate diet/hygiene/clothing</li> <li>Regular dental and optical care</li> </ul> <p><b>Social, Emotional, Behavioural, Identity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrates age appropriate responses in feelings and actions</li> <li>Good quality early attachments, child is appropriately comfortable in social situations</li> <li>Knowledgeable about the effects of crime and antisocial behaviour (age appropriate)</li> <li>Able to adapt to change</li> <li>Able to demonstrate empathy</li> <li>Positive sense of self and abilities</li> <li>Involved in leisure and other social activity</li> </ul> <p><b>Family and Social Relationships</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stable and affectionate relationships with caregivers</li> <li>Good relationships with siblings</li> <li>Positive relationships with peers and age appropriate friendships</li> </ul> <p><b>Self-Care and Independence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developing age appropriate level of practical and emotional skills</li> <li>Good level of personal hygiene</li> <li>Able to discriminate between 'safe' and 'unsafe' contacts</li> <li>Gaining confidence and skills to undertake activities away from the family</li> </ul>	<p>These children require no additional support beyond that which is universally available.</p> <p>Examples of key universal services that provide support at this level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Education</li> <li>Children's Centres</li> <li>Health Visiting</li> <li>Sexual Health Services</li> <li>Dentist</li> <li>Midwifery</li> <li>School Nursing</li> <li>GP</li> <li>Police</li> <li>Housing</li> <li>Voluntary &amp; Community Sector</li> <li>Care and Connect</li> </ul>

<b>Level 2 – Additional Needs</b> <b>Threshold for targeted support for children with additional support needs</b>		
	Indicators	Assessment Process
<p><b>Children with Level 2 Needs</b>            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. If ignored these issues may develop into more worrying concerns for the child or young person.</p> <p>These children will be living in greater adversity than most other children or have a greater degree of vulnerability than most 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 align="center"><b>Parents or Carers Capacity</b></p> <p><b>Basic Care, Safety and Protection</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requiring advice/support on parenting issues e.g. safe and appropriate childcare arrangements; safe home conditions</li> <li>• Professionals beginning to have concerns about child’s physical needs being met</li> <li>• Parental stresses starting to affect ability to ensure child’s safety</li> <li>• Poor supervision and attention to safety issues</li> </ul> <p><b>Emotional Warmth and Stability</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inconsistent responses to child by parents</li> <li>• Difficult parent/child relationship</li> <li>• Starting to demonstrate difficulties with attachment</li> <li>• Lack of response to concerns raised about child’s welfare</li> </ul> <p><b>Guidance Boundaries and Stimulation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents offer inconsistent boundaries</li> <li>• Behaviour problems not recognised and addressed by parents</li> <li>• Lack of response to concerns raised about child</li> <li>• Lack of appropriate parental guidance and boundaries for child’s stage of development and maturity</li> </ul>	<p>An Early Help Assessment (EHA) should be completed with the child/family to identify their strengths and needs. The action plan should identify the child’s additional needs, appropriate services and interventions to meet those needs and who will act as the lead professional.</p> <p>If an assessment is refused and the needs of a child cannot be met, and may escalate, a referral to Children’s Social Care, Front Door should be considered. As a minimum there should be a consultation with this service.</p> <p><b>Exit Strategy</b>            The TAF should aim to enable the child and family’s move back to universal services’ support.</p> <p><b>Universal as above plus targeted</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• YOT</li> <li>• Police</li> <li>• Adult Drug and Alcohol services</li> <li>• Children’s Centres</li> <li>• Voluntary &amp; Community Services</li> <li>• Housing</li> <li>• Family Partners/Locality Teams</li> <li>• Short break respite care</li> <li>• Domestic Abuse Services</li> </ul>
	<p align="center"><b>Family and Environmental Factors</b></p> <p><b>Family and Social relationships and Family Well-Being</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents/Carers have relationship difficulties or there is frequent conflict which may affect the child</li> <li>• Parents/Carers request advice to manage their child’s behaviour</li> <li>• Sibling with significant problem (health, disability, behaviour)</li> <li>• Risk of domestic abuse</li> <li>• Parental physical/mental health issues</li> <li>• Low level substance misuse</li> <li>• Family has limited support from wider family and/or friends</li> <li>• Child is a young carer</li> </ul> <p><b>Housing, Employment and Finance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inadequate/poor/overcrowded housing</li> <li>• Families affected by low income/debt/living with poverty affecting access to appropriate services to meet child’s additional needs</li> <li>• Family seeking asylum or refugees</li> </ul> <p><b>Social Integration and Community Resources</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experiencing harassment/discrimination</li> <li>• Socially or physically isolated</li> <li>• Lack of a support network</li> <li>• Insufficient facilities to meet social Integration needs e.g. advice/support needed to access services for disabled child where parent is coping otherwise</li> <li>• Child associating with peers who are involved in anti social or criminal behaviour</li> <li>• Family demonstrating low level anti-social behaviour towards others</li> </ul>	
	<p align="center"><b>Child or Young Person’s Developmental Needs</b></p> <p><b>Learning/Education</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor school or early years attendance/punctuality</li> <li>• Behaviour likely to lead to risk of exclusion</li> <li>• Identified learning needs – SEN Support plan</li> <li>• Identified language and communication difficulties linked to other unmet needs</li> <li>• Gaps in schooling/learning due to pregnancy</li> <li>• No access to early education</li> <li>• No access to employment (including work based learning)</li> <li>• Limited access to resources for learning at home, e.g. books/ toys</li> <li>• Not always engaged in learning – poor concentration, low motivation and interest</li> </ul>	

**Health**

- Slow in reaching developmental milestones
- Concern re diet/hygiene/clothing
- Not being brought for routine appointments e.g. immunisations and developmental checks
- Persistent minor health problems
- Weight is significantly above or below what would be expected
- Starting to default on appointments across health including antenatal, hospital and GP appointments
- Encopresis /enuresis ( soiling and wetting)
- Low level mental health or emotional issues
- Low level substance misuse
- Accident & Emergency Dept attendance giving cause for concern

**Social, Emotional, Behavioural, Identity**

- Disruptive/challenging behaviour including in school or early years setting
- Emerging anti-social behaviour and attitudes and/or low level offending
- Child is victim of bullying or bullies others
- Difficulties in relationships with peer group and/or with adults
- Friendships and relationships inappropriate for age
- Low self esteem
- Concerns about sexual development and behaviour
- Not always adequate self care, e.g. poor hygiene

**Self-Care and Independence**

- Lack of age appropriate behaviour and independent living skills that increase vulnerability to social exclusion
- Inappropriate use of social media
- Friendships and relationships inappropriate for age

Level 3– Complex Needs			
	Indicators	Assessment Process	
	In assessing need and risk that require additional services, multiple factors are likely to be present		
<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 significantly compromised. Only a small fraction of children will fall within this band. These children will be those who are highly vulnerable or experiencing greater adversity.</p> <p>These children may be eligible for a service from Children’s Social Work Teams and are potentially at risk of developing acute/complex needs if they do not receive early statutory intervention. The allocated worker will usually act as the lead professionals and coordinate services.</p> <p>Definition:</p> <p><b>Section 17 of the 1989 Children Act</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ‘is unlikely to achieve or maintain a reasonable standard of health or development’</li> <li>• ‘health or development is likely to be significantly impaired’ without the provision of LA services</li> <li>• Or she/he is disabled</li> </ul>	<p><b>Parents or Carers Capacity</b></p> <p><b>Basic, Care, Safety and Protection</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent is struggling to provide adequate care</li> <li>• Young child regularly left alone or unsupervised</li> <li>• Parents/carers unable to protect from danger or significant physical or emotional harm (including the risk of sexual harm) in the home and elsewhere</li> <li>• Neglect where food, warmth and other basics often not available</li> <li>• Parent’s mental health problems or substance misuse significantly affect the care of the child</li> <li>• Parental learning difficulties that have a direct impact on child’s health or development</li> <li>• Child exposed to ongoing domestic violence</li> <li>• Child’s health needs not met</li> </ul> <p><b>Emotional Warmth and Stability</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child receives erratic or inconsistent care</li> <li>• Parental instability affects capacity to nurture/care</li> <li>• Child/parent relationship at risk of breaking down</li> <li>• Child has a succession of unplanned, multiple carers</li> <li>• Child constantly criticised/putdown</li> <li>• Parents own emotional needs compromise those of the child/young person</li> </ul> <p><b>Guidance Boundaries and Stimulation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child/young person receives little positive stimulation</li> <li>• Parents/carers provide inconsistent boundaries or present a negative role mode, e.g. by behaving in an anti social way</li> </ul>	<p>Children’s Social Care will decide on their response based on the information supplied in the referral. If appropriate they will undertake a Single Assessment. Following this the case may be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further work under a child in need plan</li> <li>• Child protection procedures initiated (Section 47 enquiry)</li> <li>• Referred to other agencies</li> <li>• closed</li> </ul> <p>Key agencies that may provide support at this level: as level 1 and 2 above plus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other statutory service e.g. SEN Services</li> <li>• Specialist health or disability services</li> <li>• Police</li> <li>• CAMHS</li> <li>• Family Support Services</li> <li>• Voluntary &amp; Community Services</li> <li>• Homeless Services</li> </ul>	
			<p><b>Family and Environment</b></p> <p><b>Family and Social Relationships and Family Well-Being</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child is privately fostered (see page 12)</li> <li>• Unaccompanied asylum seeking children</li> <li>• Family functioning significantly affected by problems of physical or mental health or substance misuse</li> <li>• Incidents of domestic violence</li> <li>• Recent experience of serious loss or trauma</li> <li>• Parent has received custodial sentence</li> <li>• Risk of family relationship breakdown leading to need for child to become looked after outside of family network</li> <li>• Child is a young carer requiring assessment of additional needs</li> </ul> <p><b>Housing, Employment and Finance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overcrowded or poor quality housing likely to impair health or development</li> <li>• Extreme financial difficulties/poverty impacting on ability to have basic needs met and no access to funding/community resources</li> <li>• Living independently as a teenage parent and needing additional support</li> <li>• Vulnerable homeless young person</li> <li>• Family at risk of eviction having already received support from Housing services</li> </ul> <p><b>Social and Community Resources</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child or family need immediate support and protection due to harassment/discrimination and have no supportive network</li> <li>• Involvement in gang activity</li> <li>• Forced marriage of a child/young person under 18 years</li> </ul>
			<p><b>Child or Young Person’s Developmental Needs</b></p> <p><b>Learning/Education</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child not in education, in conjunction with concerns for child’s safety</li> <li>• Chronic non attendance/truanting/authorised absences/fixed term exclusions</li> <li>• Statutory assessment of Special Educational needs which may lead to an Education Health and Care plan</li> </ul> <p><b>Health</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chronic/recurring health problems with missed appointments, routine and non routine</li> <li>• Child with a disability in need of assessment and support to access appropriate specialist</li> </ul>

services

- Failure to access adequate health care
- Persistent excessive alcohol consumption, or other substance misuse
- Serious delay in achieving physical and other developmental milestones, raising significant concerns
- Frequent accidental injuries to child requiring hospital treatment
- Serious mental health issues
- Significant dental decay that has not been treated
- Communication difficulties have a severe impact on everyday life

**Social, Emotional, Behavioural, Identity**

- Disordered attachments that have a severe impact
- Serious self harming; suicidal thought
- Disruptive/challenging behaviour at school, in the community and at home
- Sexual development and behaviour which may be indicative of abuse
- Inappropriate sexual/abusive behaviours towards others
- Regularly missing or absent
- Concern in relation to sexual exploitation

**Self-Care and Independence**

- Poor self care for age, including hygiene
- Young person living independently and not coping

Level 4 – Complex or Acute: Threshold for Child Protection		
	<b>Indicators</b> In assessing need and risk that require intensive specialist services, multiple factors are likely to be present	<b>Assessment Process</b>
<p><b>Children with Level 4 Needs</b> Children requiring specialist/statutory integrated support</p> <p><b>Child Protection</b> 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 Children’s Social Care either on a voluntary basis or by way of Court Order</p> <p><b>Definition</b> 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><b>Process</b> Agencies should make an immediate referral to the Front Door Service</p>	<b>Parents or Carers Capacity</b>	<p><b>Children’s Social Care</b> will decide on their response following the referral. In the case of suspected abuse they will follow the Working Together 2015 procedures as laid out in North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Procedures. On the basis of a Section 47 enquiry and Single Assessment, a decision will be made whether to hold an Initial Child Protection Conference.</p> <p><b>Key agencies that may provide support at this level: as level 1 to 3 plus</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children’s Services – Social Care, Fostering, Adoption Teams</li> <li>• Police</li> <li>• Other statutory service e.g. SEN services; Education &amp; Child Psychology</li> <li>• Specialist health or disability services</li> <li>• Youth Offending Team</li> <li>• Targeted drug and alcohol</li> <li>• CAMHS</li> <li>• Family support services</li> <li>• Voluntary &amp; Community Services</li> <li>• Children’s Centres</li> <li>• Targeted Adolescent Services</li> <li>• Services at universal level</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Basic Care Safety and Protection</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents unable to provide ‘good enough’ parenting that is adequate and safe</li> <li>• Continual instability and violence in the home</li> <li>• Parents have or may have abused/neglected the child/young person</li> <li>• Child not protected from sexual exploitation/abusive situations</li> <li>• Child beyond parental control and placing themselves at risk</li> <li>• Forced marriage of a child/young person under 18 years</li> <li>• Pre birth assessment indicates unborn child is at risk of significant harm</li> </ul> <p><b>Emotional Warmth and Stability</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents inconsistent, highly critical or apathetic towards the child</li> <li>• Adoption breakdown</li> <li>• Abandoned child or unaccompanied minor</li> <li>• Imminent family breakdown and risk of child being looked after</li> <li>• Missing child/child persistently running away</li> </ul> <p><b>Guidance Boundaries and Stimulation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of appropriate supervision or effective boundaries</li> <li>• Child is beyond parental control</li> <li>• Child left for long periods on their own without adequate adult supervision or support</li> </ul>	
	<b>Family and Environmental Factors</b>	
	<p><b>Family and Social Relationships and Family Well-Being</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Persistent domestic violence</li> <li>• “Adults who present a risk to children” living in the family home or members of the wider family are known to be, or suspected of being a risk to children</li> <li>• Severe parental mental or physical health problems or substance misuse which means that vital parenting roles are not undertaken</li> <li>• Family characterised by conflict and serious, chronic relationship difficulties</li> <li>• Parent/carer has unresolved mental health difficulties which affect the wellbeing of the child</li> <li>• Adult victim of Domestic Abuse is assessed as high level risk and the child (including unborn) is at risk of significant harm</li> <li>• Child’s carer or a member of the household, referred to MAPPA (multi agency arrangements to protect the public managed by Probation)</li> <li>• Child needs to be looked after outside of their immediate family or parents/carers due to abuse/neglect</li> </ul> <p><b>Housing, Employment and Finance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical accommodation places child in danger</li> <li>• Persistent lack of adequate food, warmth or essential clothing</li> </ul>	
	<b>Child or Young Person's Developmental Needs</b>	
<p><b>Health</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Class A/serious drug misuse</li> <li>• Acute mental health issues</li> <li>• Suspected non accidental injury/abuse/neglect</li> <li>• Any bruising in a non mobile infant</li> <li>• Serious self harm</li> <li>• Significant regression in speech, communication or interaction where no medical cause has been identified</li> <li>• Female genital mutilation</li> </ul> <p><b>Social, Emotional, Behavioural, Identity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Challenging behaviour resulting in serious risk to the child and others</li> <li>• Failure or inability to address complex mental health issues requiring specialist interventions</li> <li>• Under 13 engaged in sexual activity</li> <li>• Under 18 concerns re coercion to engage in sexual activity</li> </ul>	<p><b>Exit Strategy</b> Children’s Social Care 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 interventions as described in level 3, or will embark on Court Proceedings to accommodate the child or young person in a</p>	

- Subject to sexual exploitation
- Missing from home for repeated short periods of time or prolonged periods
- Young people with complicated substance misuse problems requiring specific interventions and/or child protection and who can't be managed in the community
- Concern in relation to potential radicalisation
- Child subject to MAPPA

**Self Care and Independence**

- 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

kinship, fostering or residential placement, or to place the child for adoption.