



Bexley Local Safeguarding Children Board Bexley Children's Trust

Children in Need An Integrated Approach

Safeguarding Continuum of Need Matrix

For use with the Common Assessment Framework & Referrals to Children's Social Care in conjunction with the Children In Need - Guide For Those Who Work with Children & Their Families

Assessing the needs of a child or young person is often a complex task and the level of need will be high in some areas, low in others and change over time. This document is produced in addition to Bexley Children Social Care Threshold leaflet, London CAF Protocol and London Child Protection Procedures and is available to all those working in Bexley and serves to 'translate' the pan London guidance into the local context.

The continuum of need matrix does not provide an exhaustive list but provides examples that can be used as a tool to assist planning, assessment and decision making when considering the needs of children and their safeguarding needs in particular.

For most children their needs are met through universal services with no need for additional multi-agency assessment or planning. These children are included in Level 1 of the London CAF Protocol but are not included in this matrix.

For some areas of need there are specialist tools available to assist in the assessment of those needs, where these exist they are referred to in the matrix. The resources list in Appendix 1 includes these references.

Level of Need	Indicators		Level of Assessment	Level of Service (may be involved dependent on need)
	Safeguarding	Related Needs		
Targeted Safeguarding (Level 2 Children Social Care Threshold document)				
Low level risk - Child has some additional needs or vulnerability but does not meet criteria for Sec 17 CA '89	Experiencing bullying Minor behavioural issues Some concern about diet/hygiene Early indication of parenting difficulties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor engagement • Inconsistent parenting • Requiring advice on parenting • Relationship problems • Parental health problems • Lack of stimulation • Curtailing child's growing independence • Unrealistic expectations Early use of alcohol At risk of running away Some evidence of risky use of technology leading to E-safety concerns	Minor/low level health problems Language & communication difficulty Some punctuality/attendance issues Under achieving Requires additional educational help Low level anti-social behaviour Limited peer relationships Disabled child who's parent is coping but needs help accessing services Low impact of ADD, ADHD Housing problems, overcrowding	Single agency - in house assessment processes Check ContactPoint Undertake a CAF 1 (pre-CAF)	Universal Services Single agency or referral to one other agency/service Health Schools Early Intervention Teams (EITs) Community based Services Children Centres Extended School Services Integrated Youth Services (IYS)

Level of Need	Indicators		Level of Assessment	Level of Service (may be involved dependent on need)
	Safeguarding	Related Needs		
Targeted Safeguarding (Level 2 Children Social Care Threshold document)				
<p>Medium Level Risk - Child & their family are experiencing some level of difficulty where improvement is desirable or intervention necessary to reduce risk of further deterioration. May be Child in Need but unlikely to meet threshold for Children Social Care but may access other tertiary services</p>	<p>Moderate behavioural difficulties Child has low level mental health or emotional difficulties Parenting difficulties identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficult to engage • Struggling to provide adequate care • No effective boundaries • Emotionally unavailable • Relationship breakdown • Domestic Violence (Scale 1-2 DV Matrix) • Parental mental health issues impacting on ability to parent • Parental learning difficulties <p>Pre-birth concerns for unborn child Clear evidence of low/moderate neglect issues Early onset of sexual activity or expressed desire to become pregnant (13-14 yrs) Teenage pregnancy - concern for unborn child Adolescents involved in risky behaviours Significant risk of running away or has already had episodes of going missing Significant alcohol use (assessment tool) Substance misuse (assessment tool) Regularly coming to notice of police due to adult issues or behaviour Young carer Young victim of crime</p>	<p>Developmental delay Regularly missing health appointments Mild disability Poor attendance Repeated exclusions School Action Plus Special educational needs NEET Lacks self esteem Limited self care Disruptive & challenging behaviour Socially isolated family Asylum Seeking Family Inadequate housing Poor parental skills/unemployed/severe debt</p>	<p>Check ContactPoint</p> <p>Common Assessment (CAF)</p> <p>Multi-agency</p>	<p>Universal Services with additional targeted services</p> <p>Lead professional with multi-agency approach. Team Around the Child approach</p> <p>Health, Schools Early Intervention Teams, Children Centres, Integrated Youth Services, Adult Services, School/Home Support, Extended Schools Services</p> <p>Some Specialist involvement eg Youth Offending Teams, Youth Engagement Service (YES) including drugs & alcohol services</p> <p>CAMHS</p> <p>Voluntary & Community Services</p>

Level of Need	Indicators		Level of Assessment	Level of Service (may be involved dependent on need)
	Safeguarding	Related Needs		
Targeted Safeguarding (Level 2 Children Social Care Threshold document)				
Medium to High Risk Children whose need come under section 17 CA '89. May be at risk of significant harm if they are not provided with services	Significant parenting problems: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic Violence (Scale 3 DV Matrix) • Parental mental health, learning disabilities or substance misuse that result in inability to provide basic care for child • Chronic/significant neglect • Parental lifestyle impacts significantly on child • Inability to provide boundaries Serious substance misuse (assessment tool) Serious alcohol misuse (assessment tool) Mental health &/or self harming Evidence of attachment issues for the child Teenage pregnancy - significant concern for unborn child Risk of sexual exploitation Repeated episodes of going missing Private fostered children Intentionally homeless family	Significant physical health needs Children with disabilities Social isolation No effective support system Permanent exclusion from school No access to public funds Extreme poverty Chronic health problems Very poor housing, severe overcrowding Homeless young person Multiple carers	Common Assessment is likely to be appropriate first step, however it is likely this may lead to a referral to Children Social Care once all information is gathered If concerns for safeguarding are significant a referral should be made directly to Children Social Care	Multi-agency response Initial assessment under sec 17 Involvement of specialist/tertiary services alongside universal services Children Social Care YOT YES CAMHS

Level of Need	Indicators		Level of Assessment	Level of Service (may be involved dependent on need)
	Safeguarding	Related Needs		
Responsive safeguarding (Level 3 Children Social Care Threshold Document)				
High Risk Children experiencing significant harm and whose needs are complex & enduring & who are likely to need statutory intervention	Child has suffered significant harm or at serious risk of suffering significant harm Children suspected to be being physically, sexually or emotionally harmed Serious neglect Parenting is putting child at risk of harm Domestic Violence (Scale 4 DV Matrix) MARAC Referral Child whose behaviour is putting them at risk including substance & alcohol misuse Sexualised behaviour Serious mental health problems Acute self-harming Harmed whilst missing from home Running away because of abuse Sexual Exploitation or trafficking Pre-birth assessment indicates unborn child at risk of significant harm Parents have serious mental health or substance misuse problems History of previous concerns or past abuse Child in need of accommodation Contact/association with unsafe adults	NEET Health needs unmet Educational needs not met Child with disabilities whose parents are unable to cope Repeat offending Permanently excluded from school	Referral to Children Social Care Sec 17 Child In Need Assessment Sec 47 Child Protection Enquiries	Children Social Care Tertiary/specialist services Child Protection Plan Accommodation under Sec 20 Care Proceedings

Appendix 1 - Resources, Assessment Tools:

Worried about a Child....?

leaflet available from Children & Young People Services

Bexley Children Social Care Threshold

Bexley Common Assessment Framework Guidance & Forms

www.bexley.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=4647

Integrated Working without Boundaries

Pan London CAF Protocol

www.younglondonmatters.org/uploads/documents/mobilityandyounglondoncafprotocol.pdf

London Child Protection Procedures (LCPP)

www.londoncpc.gov.uk/procedures/

What to Do If you Are Worried a Child is Being Abused

www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/resources-and-practice/IG00182

When to Suspect Child Maltreatment (NICE)

www.nice.org/CG89

Barnardo's Multi-Agency Domestic Violence Risk Identification Matrix

(LCPP Supplementary procedures)

www.londonscb.gov.uk/files/procedures/dv/dv_risk_assessment_matrix_final.pdf

Assessment Tool for Substance Misuse

Joint Service Protocol to Meet the Needs of Children and Unborn Children whose Parents or Carers have Mental Health Problems or Misuse Substances

www.bexleylscb.org.uk/bexley_policies_and_procedures.html

Inter-agency Protocol to meet Needs of Children Whose Parents have a Learning Difficulty or Disability

Combating Bullying & Discriminatory Behaviour Strategy

www.bexleylscb.org.uk/bexley_policies_and_procedures.html

Interim Inter-agency Protocol - Children who go Missing from Home or Care

www.bexleylscb.org.uk/bexley_policies_and_procedures.html