

Thresholds of need and response in Salford

2016



Salford
Safeguarding
Children Board

Salford City Partnership

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Introduction

This document has been developed to help all those whose work brings them into contact with children and their families to focus on and identify additional needs and vulnerabilities in children, and the actions required to meet those needs. It includes:

- The thresholds for access to services which support the actions needed to improve outcomes for children.
- The interface between early intervention, child protection and safeguarding.
- An emphasis on early help for children, consistent with the [Early Help Strategy](#).

The document sets out the procedure which all practitioners must follow in identifying, raising and responding to concerns about children when coming into contact with, or receiving information about, them (including unborn children and adolescents up to their 18th birthday, or their 24th birthday in the case of young people with a disability).

All children and young people have the right to be protected from harm and to have the opportunity to achieve their full potential. All young people must be treated as a child in accordance with the Children Act 1989 until they attain the age of 18 years.

To achieve this, children need to feel loved and valued and be supported in reliable and affectionate relationships. If they are denied the opportunity and support they need to achieve these outcomes, children are at increased risk not only of an impoverished childhood, but of disadvantage and social exclusion in adulthood. Abuse and neglect pose particular problems.



Early Help Strategy 2016-2018

Everyone needs help at different times in their lives – learning new skills, sharing daily tasks, getting information. And often after a bit of help from others we are able to help ourselves. Sometimes we all experience problems and this is when we might need extra help.

‘Early Help is intervening early and as soon as possible to tackle problems emerging for children, young people and their families or with a population most at risk of developing problems. Effective intervention may occur at any point in a child or young person’s life.’

For more information please visit:

- www.partnersinsalford.org/earlyhelp

The continuum of needs

The continuum of needs and services is a guide for practitioners and managers. Practitioners should always use their professional judgement and take into account the age of the child, context of the situation and any protective and resilience factors.

Thresholds of need have been developed to promote early identification of concerns by universal services and early help for children.

There are four levels that take into account the different stages of need and types of intervention which are available to all children and their families.

Children can move across the levels at different times in their lives, or at different times during agencies' contact with them. Support and/or intervention may be provided on either a single or multi-agency basis to address the identified needs of the child.

To assist managers and practitioners/workers, there is a table of possible indicators which contains some examples of the type of situation that would be found within each of the levels of need.

The service response will be directed at reducing risk and vulnerability and meeting needs at the appropriate level of intervention. The availability of, and access to, effective early intervention and preventive services is essential to achieving this.

Context

Patterns of family life are diverse and there is no one perfect way to bring up children. Good parenting involves a combination of knowledge and skills and at times this is challenging for parents. Asking for help should be promoted as a positive step in taking responsibility rather than be seen as demonstrating failure.

Ensuring that the actions and services provided across the agencies achieve good outcomes for children requires all those with responsibility for assessment and the provision of services to work together, according to an agreed plan of action.



Safeguarding Children Procedures

Salford Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) has adopted the Greater Manchester Safeguarding Children Procedures Manual. Practitioners can [register for alerts](#) when the manual is updated and subscribe to receive free policy briefings.

Supporting local pathway guidance is provided to enable practitioners to interpret some Greater Manchester procedures for implementation in Salford.

For more information please visit:

- <http://greatermanchesterscb.proceduresonline.com/>
- www.partnersinsalford.org/sscb/procedurespolicies.htm

Thresholds of need in Salford

Level 1 - Universal services and self-help

All children are supported by their parents/carers in the community with access to mainstream ('universal') services but with no identified additional needs. Diverse community self-help arrangements may also support parents and carers in providing good care for their children.

Level 2 - Targeted and co-ordinated early help

Child's needs are not clear, not known or not being met. This is the threshold for consideration of beginning an early help assessment. Response services are universal support services and/or targeted services.

Where multiple agencies are involved a CAF and Team Around the Child (TAC) would be recommended to coordinate the delivery of services for the family.

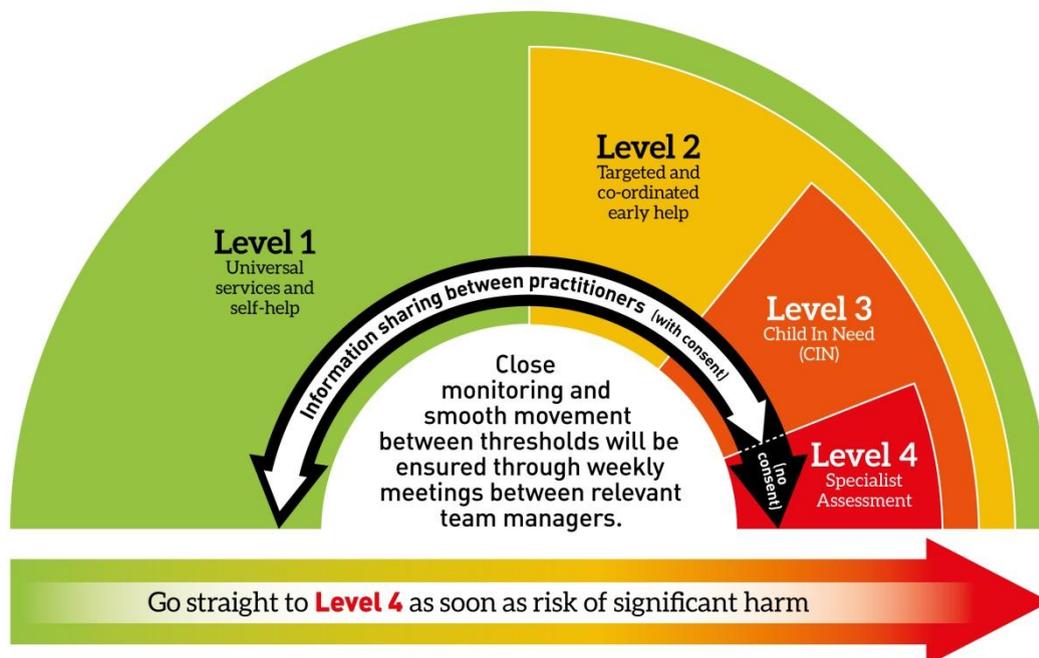
Level 3 - Children In Need (CIN)

The child has needs that are likely to require longer term intervention from statutory and/ or specialist services. High level additional unmet needs – this will usually require a targeted integrated response, which will usually require a specialist or statutory service. This is also the threshold for a Child In Need which will require Children's Social Care assessment and intervention.

Level 4 - Specialist Assessment

Acute needs, requiring statutory intensive support. This in particular includes the threshold for child protection which will require Children's Social Care assessment and intervention.

Salford Thresholds of Need and Response



If you are worried about a child contact The Bridge Partnership on **0161 603 4500** or email **worriedaboutachild@salford.gov.uk**

What is the Common Assessment Framework (CAF)?

The CAF offers a basis for early identification of children’s additional needs. With the consent of the child, young person or parents/carers, the practitioners may undertake a common assessment to assess these needs and to decide how best to support them. The findings of the common assessment may, however, give rise to concerns about a child’s safety and welfare.

Practitioners should be particularly concerned where parenting is compromised and those who have parental responsibility for a child or young person are failing to act in their best interests. This can be related to parents’ physical illness, mental illness, learning disability, substance/alcohol misuse, experience of domestic violence, own childhood abuse or their own history of abusing children. All agencies and individuals should aim to proactively safeguard and promote the welfare of children so that the need for action to protect children from harm is reduced ([Working Together, 2015](#)).

Who is a Child In Need (CIN)?

Local authorities have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in need. They should do this in partnership with other agencies.

The Children Act (1989) describes a child as being “in need” when:

- He or she is unlikely to achieve or maintain or to have the opportunity of achieving or maintaining, a reasonable standard of health or development without the provision for him of services by a local authority
- His or her health or development is likely to be significantly impaired, or further impaired, without the provision for him of such services; or
- he or she is disabled,



Escalation

As children grow up their needs change and the urgency for help in their lives can change too. When this happens the concern should be escalated or stepped up to the next level. Similarly if concerns are reduced then the intervention in children’s lives can be stepped down or de-escalated.

If any practitioner or manager is concerned that this is not being actioned by another agency then the Greater Manchester Escalation Policy and supporting local escalation policy can be used.

For more information please visit:

- <http://greatermanchesterscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/contents.html>
- www.partnersinsalford.org/sscb/policiesprocedures

Concerns resolved satisfactory? The Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Unit offer consultation and advice on cases and will intervene to help resolve issues if it is appropriate. Please contact the duty Child Protection Coordinator (8:30am-4:30pm) Tel: 0161 603 4350

All of these categories will be considered by Salford Children's Services at point of access through The Bridge Partnership. This team is the point of referral if you are worried about a child and are requesting an assessment or CP investigation. The team provides single point of entry for all contacts that are received on children and young people. The team screen contacts to inform decision making about the intervention process required. Early intervention and prevention requests that do not meet the threshold for either Sec. 17 services or Sec. 47 investigations will be dealt with by the EIP manager, who sits within The Bridge Partnership.

Salford Children's Services has one point of access for all referrals into Social Care and this is through The Bridge Partnership. Contact can be made via post, email or phone from members of the public. However, if you are a practitioner and you want to make a referral to the Bridge Partnership, please use our [online referral form](#). **NB** All practitioners using the online form MUST populate their email address in order to get a copy of the referral.

Consent to intervention and assessment

Safeguarding and child protection work should always be underpinned by principles of working together in partnership with families. In all cases, consent must be sought from parents/carers to share information as appropriate, although there are certain circumstances in which this consent is not required.

These include situations where there is:

- Suspicion that a child will be forced into marriage or removed from the country against their will
- There is suspicion that a child is at risk of female genital mutilation
- A child discloses sexual abuse
- Fabricated illness is suspected
- If the child is at IMMEDIATE risk of harm (a child is generally not at immediate risk if they are in school or at some other venue with professional present, as action can be taken before the child is returned home)

Salford Children's Services cannot compel parents to undertake assessments or accept services but a refusal to cooperate with recommended services or interventions may be seen as raising the level of risk to the child as described on the next page.



Information Sharing

Information Sharing is critical in making sure that children are protected from harm and that they get the services they need to help them grow up healthy and happy. It is also vital in working in partnership with parents/carers.

For more information visit:

- http://greatermanchesterscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_info_sharing.html

If in doubt always consult with The Bridge Partnership team. Any practitioner concerned about a child can ring The Bridge Partnership for advice before making a referral or to find out if Children Service's are involved.

How to decide whether to make a referral to The Bridge Partnership

Be clear about the purpose and intended outcome of the referral. It is helpful to consider the three main categories of referrals and related need, to consider where your concerns about a child or young person may fit.

If you are a practitioner and you have concerns it can be very useful to consult with other practitioners in the child's network (such as a health visitor, youth worker, teacher). When the concern is around risk of harm to a child, you may want to speak to your own agency lead for child protection and safeguarding. Alternatively you can consult with The Bridge Partnership team to decide if a referral is appropriate.

Where the situation is judged on being of immediate risk to a child, contact The Bridge Partnership or Police immediately and alert them to your concern.

Non co-operative parents or carers

Safeguarding and child protection work should always be done in partnership with families when this safeguards the child's welfare. However, it needs to be recognised that not all parents/carers act reasonably and they may refuse to agree to CAF or CIN support or to participate in a Team around the Child.

If this refusal leads to the child being at risk of significant harm then the matter may be dealt with under child protection procedures.

Where parents/carers are uncooperative with all agencies there is likely to be a lack of information leading to an incomplete picture of the child and his or her welfare. Under these circumstances the practitioners involved will hold a professionals meeting to decide the level of concern and plan a response to promote the child's welfare.

The purpose of the meeting is to share concerns and consider what information is available, as well as identifying what information is not available. It is also important to consider whether a particular agency has a better relationship with the parents/carers and could take the lead in engaging with them.

The meeting should develop a work plan to ensure the safety of the child and practitioners involved. It will also identify who is going to visit the family, what information needs to be obtained and how that information will be shared and when. A subsequent meeting will need to review the effectiveness of the work plan.



“The best way to protect children and young people is to ensure they are loved, cared for, not living in poverty and are given opportunities to learn and grow their aspirations. For those not so fortunate we need to make sure that we provide early help and share information to ensure we have the best possible chance of reducing risks and minimising harm.”

Simon Westwood, SSCB Independent Chair

This document can be provided in large print, audio, electronic and Braille formats. Please telephone 0161 603 4500.

If you need this document translated, please contact us on the number below.

Czech

Pokud potřebujete přeložit tenhle dokument do vašeho jazyka, kontaktujte nás na uvedeném čísle.

French

Si vous avez besoin d'une traduction de ce document, veuillez nous contacter sur le numéro mentionné ci-dessous.

Polish

Jeśli potrzebują Państwo kopię tego dokumentu przetłumaczoną na Państwa język, prosimy o kontakt na numer podany poniżej.

Somali

Haddii aad u baahan tahay dukumiintigan oo luuqaddaada ku turjuman, fadlan naga la soo xiriir nambarka hoos ku qoran.

Russian

Если Вам нужен перевод данного документа на русский язык, пожалуйста, свяжитесь с нами по ниже указанному номеру.

Chinese

如果您需要此文件翻譯成中文，請用以下電話號碼與我們聯絡。

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Hindi

यदि आपको इस दस्तावेज का अनुवाद आपकी भाषा में चाहिये, तो कृपया नीचे दिये नंबर पर हम से संपर्क करें।

Punjabi

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਦਾ ਤਰਜਮਾ ਤੁਹਾਡੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਚਾਹੀਦਾ ਹੈ, ਤਾਂ ਕਰਿਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਹੇਠ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਨੰਬਰ ਤੇ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

Tigrinya

ከዚ ሰነድ ናብ ቋንቋኹም ክተርጎም ኣገተደኣ ደ.ሊ.ክምም፡ ሰዚ ኣብ ታሕቲ ተጠቒሱ ዘሎ ቁጽሪ ተሊፎን ደብዳቤኹም ተወክሱ።

Arabic

إذا احتجت لان تترجم هذه الوثيقة الى لغتك, فالرجاء الاتصال بنا على الرقم المبين اسفله.

Farsi

اگر شما ترجمه این مطلب را به زبان خود نیاز دارید، لطفاً از طریق شماره تلفن زیر با ما تماس بگیرید.

Kurdish Sorani

ئەگەر دەخوازیت ئەم دۆکیومێنتە (بەلگە نامەییە) وەرگیردریت بۆ زمانی خۆت، ئەوا تکایە پەڕیوەندیمان پێوە بکە لە ڕێگەی ئەم ژمارەیی خوارم.

Pashto

کچیری ددی سند ترجمه پخپله ژبه غواری، لطفاً په لاندی شمیره مونږ سره اړیکه ونیسی.

Urdu

اگر آپ اس دستاویز کا اپنی زبان میں ترجمہ چاہتے ہیں، تو برائے مہربانی نیچے دئیے گئے نمبر پر رابطہ کیجئے۔

0161 603 4500