

Multi-Agency Threshold Guidance

Threshold	Child's developmental Needs	Parents and Carers	Family and Environmental Factors
<p>Level 1 Threshold: Universal Services</p> <p>Identify emerging problems. Infrequent, short lived or no significant concerns.</p>	<p>HEALTH: Good physical health; adequate diet/hygiene/clothing; developmental, checks/immunisations up to date; accesses health services; developmental milestones met including Speech & Language; appropriate height & weight; healthy lifestyle; sexual activity appropriate for age; good state of mental health; no substance misuse (including alcohol).</p> <p>EDUCATION & LEARNING: Good attendance at school/college/training; no barriers to learning; achieving key stages.</p> <p>EMOTIONAL & BEHAVIOURAL DEVELOPMENT: Growing level of competencies in practical and emotional skills; good quality early attachments.</p> <p>IDENTITY: Positive sense of self & abilities; demonstrates feelings of belonging & acceptance; an ability to express needs.</p> <p>FAMILY & SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS: Stable & affectionate relationships with care givers; good relationships with siblings; positive relationships with peers.</p> <p>SOCIAL PRESENTATION: Appropriate dress for different settings; good level of personal hygiene.</p> <p>SELF-CARE SKILLS: Age-appropriate independent living skills.</p>	<p>BASIC CARE, SAFETY AND PROTECTION: Carers able to provide for child's needs and protect from danger and harm.</p> <p>EMOTIONAL WARMTH AND STABILITY: Carers able to provide warmth, praise, and encouragement.</p> <p>GUIDANCE, BOUNDARIES AND STIMULATION: Carers provide appropriate guidance and boundaries to help child develop appropriate values; supports development through interaction and play.</p>	<p>FAMILY HISTORY AND FUNCTIONING: Supportive family relationships, including when parents are separated.</p> <p>HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT AND FINANCE: Housing has basic amenities and appropriate facilities; appropriate levels of cleanliness/hygiene are maintained; not living in poverty.</p> <p>FAMILY'S SOCIAL INTEGRATION: Good enough social and friendship networks exist; appropriate use of social media.</p> <p>COMMUNITY RESOURCES: Good enough universal services in neighbourhood.</p>
<p>Level 2 Threshold: Child has additional needs and early help required</p> <p>There are concerns which are becoming more frequent or over an extended period of time.</p>	<p>HEALTH: Slow in reaching developmental milestones; missing immunisations or checks; susceptible to minor health problems; minor concerns ref: diet, hygiene, clothing, alcohol consumption (but not immediately hazardous); disability requiring support services; starting to have sex (under 16); previous pregnancy.</p> <p>EDUCATION & LEARNING: Occasional truanting or non-attendance; poor punctuality; at risk of fixed term exclusion or a previous fixed term exclusion; has Additional Learning Needs; not in education, employment, or training; identified language and communication difficulties; not reaching educational potential.</p> <p>EMOTIONAL & BEHAVIOURAL DEVELOPMENT: Low level mental health or emotional issues requiring intervention; substance misuse that is not immediately hazardous including alcohol; superficial self-harming as a coping mechanism; involved in behaviour seen as anti-social; attachment issues and/or emotional development delay e.g., adopted child; involved in bullying behaviour.</p> <p>IDENTITY: Some insecurities around identity; may experience bullying around 'difference.'</p> <p>FAMILY & SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS: Some support from family and friends; has some difficulties sustaining relationships; undertaking occasional caring responsibilities; child of a teenage parent; child adopted from care; low parental aspirations.</p> <p>SOCIAL PRESENTATION: Can be over-friendly or withdrawn with strangers; personal hygiene starting to be a problem.</p> <p>SELF-CARE SKILLS: Not always adequate self-care—poor hygiene; slow to develop age-appropriate self-care skills; overprotected/unable to develop independence.</p>	<p>BASIC CARE, SAFETY AND PROTECTION: Parental engagement with services is poor; parent requires advice on parenting issues; professionals are beginning to have some concerns around child's physical needs being met; professionals are beginning to have some concerns about substance misuse (including alcohol) by adults within the home; some exposure to dangerous situations in home/community/online; teenage parent(s)</p> <p>EMOTIONAL WARMTH AND STABILITY: Inconsistent parenting but development not significantly impaired; post-natal depression; perceived to be a problem by parent.</p> <p>GUIDANCE BOUNDARIES AND STIMULATION: May have different carers where inconsistent boundaries offered; can behave in an anti-social way; spends much time alone (TV, etc); child not exposed to new experiences.</p>	<p>FAMILY HISTORY AND FUNCTIONING: Parents have relationship difficulties which may affect the child; experienced loss of significant adult; may look after younger siblings; parent has health difficulties; some support from family and friends.</p> <p>HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT AND FINANCE: Families affected by low income or unemployment; parents have limited formal education; adequate/poor housing; family seeking asylum or refugees.</p> <p>FAMILY'S SOCIAL INTEGRATION: Family may be new to area; some social exclusion problems; victimisation by others.</p> <p>COMMUNITY RESOURCES: Adequate universal resources but family may have access issues.</p>

Multi-Agency Threshold Guidance

<p>Level 3 Threshold: Child has complex needs and requires intensive help</p> <p>Continuous significant concerns which require social work assessment and proactive engagement.</p>	<p>HEALTH: Some concerns around mental health; has some chronic/recurring health problems; missed routine and non-routine health appointments; concerns re: diet, hygiene, clothing; conception to child under 16; sex with multiple partners; administration of substances in a hazardous manner (sharing equipment etc); substance misuse impacts negatively on their risk taking behaviour (e.g. unprotected sex); disability requiring significant support services; risk taking behaviour (e.g. unprotected sex).</p> <p>EDUCATION & LEARNING: Fixed term exclusion or persistent truanting; poor school attendance; at risk of or has been permanently excluded or previous permanent exclusion; has Additional learning Needs with few opportunities for play and/or socialisation; not achieving key stage benchmarks; limited access to books, toys, persistent NEET.</p> <p>EMOTIONAL & BEHAVIOURAL DEVELOPMENT: Difficulty coping with anger, frustration and upset; physical and emotional development raising significant concerns; significant attachment difficulties e.g. child adopted from care; escalation of self-harming; early onset of sexual activity; hazardous substance misuse (including alcohol); persistent bullying behaviour; inappropriate sexual behaviour including online and via social media; offending or regular anti-social behaviour, carrying a weapon; found with quantities of drugs, more than personal use; frequent missing episodes.</p> <p>IDENTITY: Subject to discrimination; significantly low self-esteem; extremist views; gang membership/affiliation.</p> <p>FAMILY & SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS: Peers also involved in challenging behaviour; regularly needed to care for another family member; involved in conflicts with peers/siblings; adoptive family under severe stress.</p> <p>SOCIAL PRESENTATION: Clothing regularly unwashed; hygiene problems; is provocative in behaviour/appearance.</p> <p>SELF-CARE SKILLS: Poor self-care for age – hygiene; precociously able to care for self.</p>	<p>BASIC CARE, SAFETY AND PROTECTION: Parent is struggling to provide adequate care; parental learning disability; parental substance misuse (including alcohol) or mental health impacting on parent’s ability to meet the needs of the child; previously subject to child protection plan; teenage parent(s); either or both previously child in care.</p> <p>EMOTIONAL WARMTH AND STABILITY: Child often scapegoated; child is rarely comforted when distressed; receives inconsistent care; has no other positive relationships.</p> <p>GUIDANCE, BOUNDARIES AND STIMULATION: Few age-appropriate toys in the house; parent rarely referees disputes between siblings; inconsistent parenting impairing emotional or behavioural development.</p>	<p>FAMILY HISTORY AND FUNCTIONING: Evidence of domestic violence; acrimonious divorce/separation; family members have physical and mental health difficulties; parental involvement in crime; evidence of problematic substance misuse (including alcohol); child is subject to a Residence Order arrangement.</p> <p>HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT AND FINANCE: Overcrowding; temporary accommodation; homelessness; unemployment; poorly maintained bed/bedding; serious debts/poverty impacting on ability to care for child.</p> <p>FAMILY’S SOCIAL INTEGRATION: Family socially excluded; escalating victimisation.</p> <p>COMMUNITY RESOURCES: Parents socially excluded with access problems to local facilities and targeted services; homelessness if no other concerns or risks are identified.</p>
<p>Level 4 Threshold: Acute Needs</p> <p>Significant risk of abuse or neglect, pose a risk of serious harm to others or complex needs in relation to a disability.</p>	<p>HEALTH: Has severe/chronic health problems; persistent substance misuse; non-organic failure to thrive; fabricated illness; injury and bruising in babies and children who are not independently mobile; early teenage pregnancy; serious mental health issues; seriously obese; dental decay and no access to treatment; sexual exploitation/abuse; sexual activity under the age of 13; female genital mutilation (FGM); disability requiring highest level of support.</p> <p>EDUCATION & LEARNING: No education provision; permanently excluded from school; history of previous exclusions; home education where there are concerns and risks identified; significant developmental delay due to neglect/poor parenting.</p> <p>EMOTIONAL & BEHAVIOURAL DEVELOPMENT: Regularly involved in anti-social/criminal activities; puts self or others in danger; endangers own life through self-harm/substance misuse including alcohol/eating disorder/ suicide attempts including online/through social media; in sexually exploitive relationship; frequently goes missing from home for long periods; child who abuses others; severe attachment problems and/or severe emotional development delay; regularly involved in anti-social / criminal activities; being criminally exploited; puts self or others in danger; fatalistic thinking / fear of repercussions.</p> <p>IDENTITY: Experiences persistent discrimination; is socially isolated and lacks appropriate role models; alienates self from others; distorted self-image; extremist views or behaviour.</p> <p>FAMILY & SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS: Child in Care; care leaver; family breakdown related in some way to child’s behavioural difficulties; subject to physical, emotional, or sexual abuse/neglect; is main carer for a family member; adoption breakdown.</p> <p>SOCIAL PRESENTATION: Poor and inappropriate self-presentation; neglects to use self-care skills due to alternative priorities, e.g., substance misuse.</p>	<p>BASIC CARE, SAFETY AND PROTECTION: Parents unable to provide “good enough” parenting that is adequate and safe; parents’ mental health problems or substance misuse significantly affect care of child; parents unable to care for previous children; there is instability and violence in the home continually; parents are involved in crime; parents unable to keep child safe; victim of crime.</p> <p>EMOTIONAL WARMTH AND STABILITY: Parents inconsistent; highly critical or apathetic towards child; child is rejected or abandoned.</p> <p>GUIDANCE, BOUNDARIES AND STIMULATION: No effective boundaries set by parents; regularly behaves in an anti-social way in the neighbourhood; child beyond parental control; antisocial behaviour; persistent absence from school.</p>	<p>FAMILY HISTORY AND FUNCTIONING: Significant parent discord and persistent domestic violence; child looked after by a non-relative; destructive relationships with extended family; parents are deceased and there are no family/friends options; in contact with an individual identified as high risk to children; parents are in prison and there are no family/friends options.</p> <p>HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT AND FINANCE: Physical accommodation places child in danger; no fixed abode or homeless; chronic unemployment due to significant lack of basic skills or long-standing issues such as substance misuse/offending, etc; extreme poverty/debt impacting on ability to care for child.</p> <p>FAMILY’S SOCIAL INTEGRATION: Family chronically socially excluded.</p> <p>COMMUNITY RESOURCES: Restricting and refusing intervention from services.</p>