

**CHILDREN IN NEED (INCLUDING IN NEED OF PROTECTION)**

**INDICATORS OF NEED**

	<b>Health</b>	<b>Education</b>	<b>Emotional and Behavioural Development</b>	<b>Family and Environmental</b>	<b>Parenting Capacity</b>
<b>LEVEL 1: BASELINE Universal (Single agency)</b>	Appropriate height and weight for age	Enjoys and participates in educational activities and school life	Good quality attachments/ relationships	Adequate income with resources used appropriately to meet child’s needs	Established, consistent routines and boundaries
	Physically healthy	No concerns around cognitive development	Demonstrates appropriate responses in feelings and actions	Accessing universal services in neighbourhood	Protection from danger / significant harm in the home and community
	Developmental and medical checks up to date	Regular school attendance	Able to adapt to change	Accommodation has basic amenities and appropriate facilities	Shows warmth, praise and encouragement
	Adequate and nutritious diet	Access to books, toys as appropriate	Able to demonstrate empathy (appropriate to age as this develops and very young children couldn’t be expected to have a high degree of empathy)	Good family networks and friendships outside of the family unit	No substance misuse issues
	Regular dental and optical care	Good links between home and school	Positive sense of self and abilities	Good relationships with siblings	Supportive relationship between parents, including when separated / divorced
	Good state of mental health		Demonstrates feelings of belonging and acceptance by family / peer group		
	No misuse of substances		No experience of bullying due to ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, or poverty		
	Age appropriate sexual awareness and language				

**Notes:**

- *These indicators are intended to assist practitioners in making a decision regarding a child / family’s needs. They are not exhaustive and no single indicator should be taken out of context.*
- *If a child’s needs are being met in accordance with this baseline above, this would indicate that the child is making good progress across all areas of their development and there would be no need for any additional supports other than those accessed through universal services.*
- *If a child’s needs are mostly being met in accordance with this baseline but there one or two needs identified in Level 2 below, this would indicate that overall the child is making good progress across most areas of their development but may need additional support from a single agency to maximise life chances. A CAF may help to focus the support needed and the strengths within the family to maximise future resilience.*

	Health	Education	Emotional and Behavioural Development	Family and Environmental	Parenting Capacity
<b>LEVEL 2: MODERATE</b> <b>Emerging &amp; Escalating needs (Early Help)</b>	<p>Not registered with a GP/Dentist</p> <p>Preventative health measures not taken, e.g. dental checks, vision, hearing, immunisations</p> <p>Some missed health appointments</p> <p>Medical advice and treatment not consistently adhered to</p> <p>Inadequately nutritious diet</p> <p>Speech, language and communication delay</p> <p>Developmental delay</p> <p>Unexplained wetting and soiling</p> <p>Experimental alcohol and substance misuse</p> <p>Sexual awareness, language or behaviour not appropriate for age.</p> <p>Risky sexual activity (under 16 years)</p>	<p>Under stimulated - lack of positive interaction through play</p> <p>Lack of parental encouragement to learn</p> <p>Not reaching education/learning potential.</p> <p>Low aspirations</p> <p>Poor links between home and school</p> <p>Often late for school; tired during lessons impacting on ability to learn</p> <p>Often hungry at school/nursery</p> <p>Poor attendance and punctuality</p>	<p>At risk of involvement in criminal activities and anti-social behaviour or involved in low-level offending</p> <p>Lack of self control in response to change or challenge</p> <p>Low-level or infrequent self-harming</p> <p>Challenging behaviour in home and community</p> <p>Disruptive behaviour and inability to control anger</p> <p>Withdrawn / isolated</p> <p>Experiences of bullying and discrimination due to ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, or poverty</p> <p>Low self image, does not feel valued</p> <p>Low self-esteem</p> <p>Difficulties in relating to peers</p> <p>Poor hygiene and / or inappropriate clothing leading to alienation from peers</p>	<p>Some level of poverty or debt impacting on household and child</p> <p>Lack of family support</p> <p>Isolated in the community</p> <p>Home in poor repair with lack of some basic amenities</p> <p>Threat of eviction</p> <p>Stressful family relationships</p> <p>Child's clothing is regularly unwashed and frequently ill-fitting</p> <p>Child is a young carer</p>	<p>Inconsistent parenting</p> <p>Parents critical and show inconsistent warmth, praise and affection</p> <p>Inexperienced parent who needs support. No family network</p> <p>Domestic disputes</p> <p>No effective boundaries</p> <p>Problematic alcohol and substance misuse</p> <p>Some concerns regarding attachment to child</p> <p>Significant or enduring physical or mental health issues</p>

**Notes:**

- These indicators are intended to assist practitioners in making a decision regarding a child / family's needs. They are not exhaustive and no single indicator should be taken out of context.
- If some of a child's needs are being met in accordance with the baseline (Level 1), but there is a cluster of needs identified in Level 2, this would indicate that they have some significant needs that are not being met and without intervention or support their health and wellbeing will be impaired. If ignored, these issues could develop and lead to adverse outcomes where risks increase over time leading to statutory intervention. These children will require a co-ordinated multi-agency response (CAF/TAF).

	Health	Education	Emotional and Behavioural Development	Family and Environmental	Parenting Capacity
LEVEL 3: HIGH Specialist & Statutory Services	Severe developmental delay, failure to gain weight or average expected rate of growth for age	Significant under-achievement proportionate to child's ability	Suicidal thoughts	Serious poverty or debt impacting on household and child	Serious neglect of primary needs
	Unexplained or suspicious injury	Non-school attendance	Significant self harm or eating disorder	Frequent changes of living situation – transient (accommodation and household members)	Inability to protect child from sexual, physical, or emotional harm
	Multiple A&E/ Walk-In Centre attendance	Parent encourages or colludes in absence from school	Extreme anxiety or depression	Home environment highly unsuitable exposing child to risk of injury or significant harm to health	Domestic violence on a regular basis witnessed by child
	Non-compliance with medical treatment resulting in impaired health	Constantly late for school; tired during lessons impacting on ability to learn	Constantly missing from home	Failed asylum seeking family with children under 18	No engagement with school or nursery
	Failure to seek medical attention for significant injuries or ailments	Constantly hungry at school/nursery	Behaviour beyond parental control – violent, abusive etc	Absence of extended family/community support	Multiple carers
	Sexual activity under 13 years	Little or no contact with parent.	Risk to self and others		Home alone (relevant to age)
	Sexual exploitation		Rejected by parent, no positive relationship resulting in no sense of belonging within family		Misusing alcohol and substances when in sole care of the child which overrides their ability to meet basic needs of child
	Problematic substance and alcohol misuse		No sense of individuality or positive view of themselves		No longer want to care for the child
	Non-accidental injury, bruising on immobile baby		Feelings of self-loathing leading to deterioration in mental health		
	Female genital mutilation/Breast Ironing		Constantly engaging in unsafe behaviours		
	Fabricated or Induced Illness (FII)				

**Notes:**

- *These indicators are intended to assist practitioners in making a decision regarding a child / family's needs. They are not exhaustive and no single indicator should be taken out of context.*
- *If a child's needs are mainly clustered in level 3 (or in the level 2, but there are some needs identified at level 3) this would indicate that they may be at serious risk of significant harm or are suffering significant harm. These are our most vulnerable children and need a multi-agency response led by a Social Worker. Please refer to list of circumstances for immediate referral to the Referral and Assessment Team.*