

CHILDREN IN NEED (INCLUDING IN NEED OF PROTECTION)

INDICATORS OF NEED AND SERVICE RESPONSE

	Health	Education	Emotional and Behavioural Development	Identity	Family and Environmental	Parenting Capacity
LEVEL 1: BASELINE Universal (Single agency)	<p>Appropriate height and weight for age</p> <p>Physically healthy</p> <p>Developmental and medical checks up to date</p> <p>Adequate and nutritious diet</p> <p>Regular dental and optical care</p> <p>Good state of mental health</p> <p>No misuse of substances</p>	<p>Enjoys and participates in educational activities and school life</p> <p>No concerns around cognitive development</p> <p>Regular school attendance</p> <p>Access to books, toys as appropriate</p> <p>Good links between home and school</p>	<p>Good quality attachments/relationships</p> <p>Demonstrates appropriate responses in feelings and actions</p> <p>Able to adapt to change</p> <p>Able to demonstrate empathy</p>	<p>Positive sense of self and abilities</p> <p>Demonstrates feelings of belonging and acceptance by family / peer group</p> <p>No experience of bullying due to ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, or poverty</p>	<p>Adequate income with resources used appropriately to meet child's needs</p> <p>Accessing universal services in neighbourhood</p> <p>Accommodation has basic amenities and appropriate facilities</p> <p>Good family networks and friendships outside of the family unit</p> <p>Good relationships with siblings</p>	<p>Protection from danger / significant harm in the home and community</p> <p>Shows warmth, praise and encouragement</p> <p>No substance misuse issues</p> <p>Supportive relationship between parents, including when separated / divorced</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 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	Identity	Family and Environmental	Parenting Capacity
LEVEL 2: MODERATE Targeted (CAF / Team Around the Family)	<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>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</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 self-harming</p> <p>Challenging behaviour in home and community</p> <p>Disruptive behaviour and inability to control anger</p> <p>Withdrawn</p>	<p>Experiences of bullying and discrimination due to ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, or poverty</p> <p>Low self image, doesn't 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:

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- *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).*

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LEVEL 3: HIGH Specialist (Initial / Core Social Care Assessment)	<p>Severe developmental delay, failure to gain weight or average expected rate of growth for age</p> <p>Unexplained or suspicious injury</p> <p>Multiple A&E/ Walk-In Centre attendance</p> <p>None compliance with medical treatment resulting in impaired health</p> <p>Failure to seek medical attention for significant injuries or ailments</p> <p>Sexual activity under 13 years</p> <p>Sexual exploitation</p> <p>Problematic substance and alcohol misuse</p>	<p>Significant under-achievement proportionate to child's ability</p> <p>None school attendance</p> <p>Parent encourages or colludes in absence from school</p> <p>Constantly late for school; tired during lessons impacting on ability to learn</p> <p>Constantly hungry at school/nursery</p>	<p>Suicidal thoughts</p> <p>Significant self harm or eating disorder</p> <p>Extreme anxiety or depression</p> <p>Constantly missing from home</p> <p>Behaviour beyond parental control – violent, abusive etc</p> <p>Risk to self and others</p>	<p>Rejected by parent, no positive relationship resulting in no sense of belonging within family</p> <p>No sense of individuality or positive view of themselves</p> <p>Feelings of self-loathing leading to deterioration in mental health</p>	<p>Serious poverty or debt impacting on household and child</p> <p>Frequent changes of living situation – transient (accommodation and household members)</p> <p>Home environment highly unsuitable exposing child to risk of injury or significant harm to health</p> <p>Failed asylum seeking family with children under 18</p>	<p>Serious neglect of primary needs</p> <p>Inability to protect child from sexual, physical, or emotional harm</p> <p>Domestic violence on a regular basis witnessed by child</p> <p>No engagement with school or nursery</p> <p>Multiple carers</p> <p>Home alone (relevant to age)</p> <p>Misusing alcohol and substances when in sole care of the child which overrides their ability to meet basic needs of child</p> <p>No longer want to care for the child</p>

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- *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.*