



Liverpool Safeguarding Children Partnership

Working together to promote children's welfare and provide early help

Responding to Need Guidance and Levels of Need Framework

February 2023

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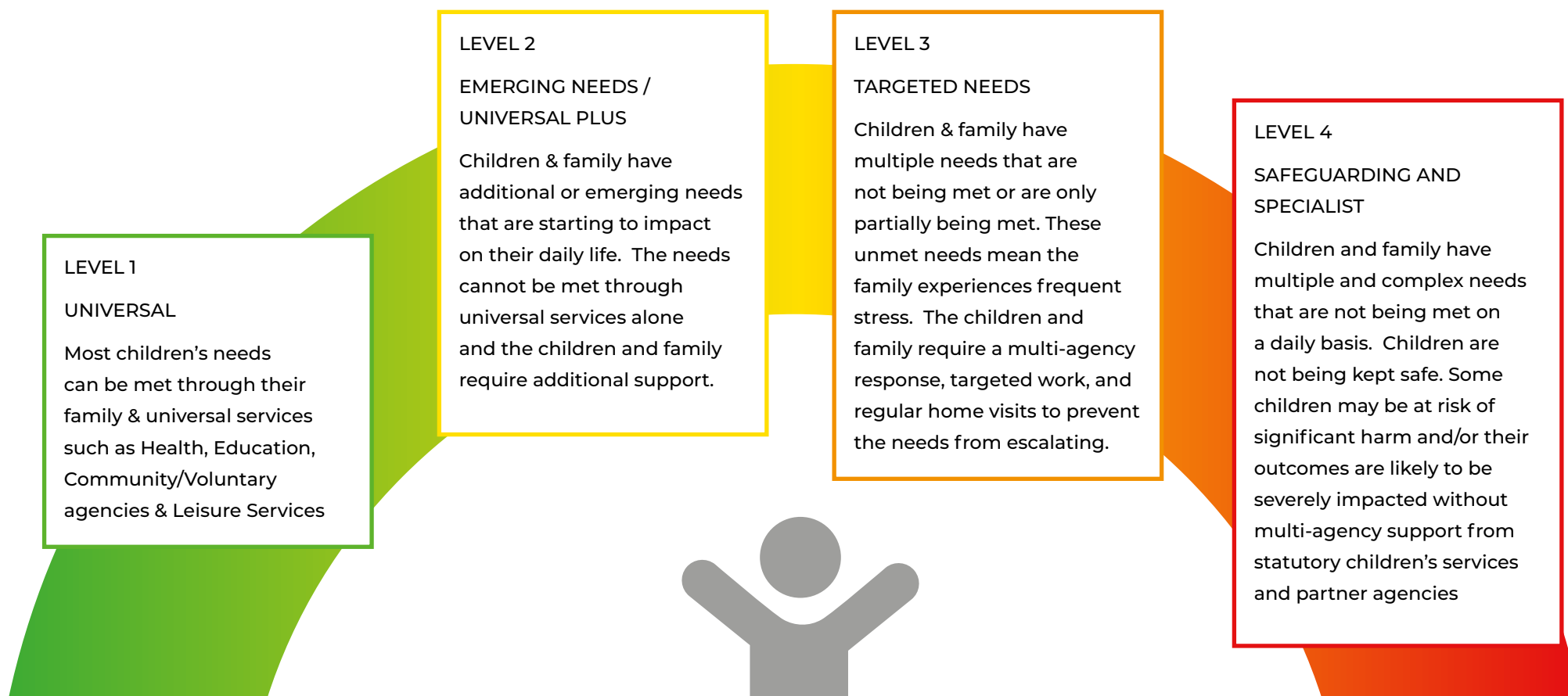


1. Introduction

This guide sets out the 'Levels of Need' experienced by children, young people, and families in Liverpool. The guide can be used by all agencies including voluntary services. The guide aims to help practitioners and their managers to effectively identify the level of need for a family and to assist the professionals in responding to the different levels of need. This will ensure children and their families receive the right support at the right time. Many children's needs

can be met through universal services such as health and education, however some children and families will have additional needs that increase their vulnerability and mean they will require additional or specialist support services.

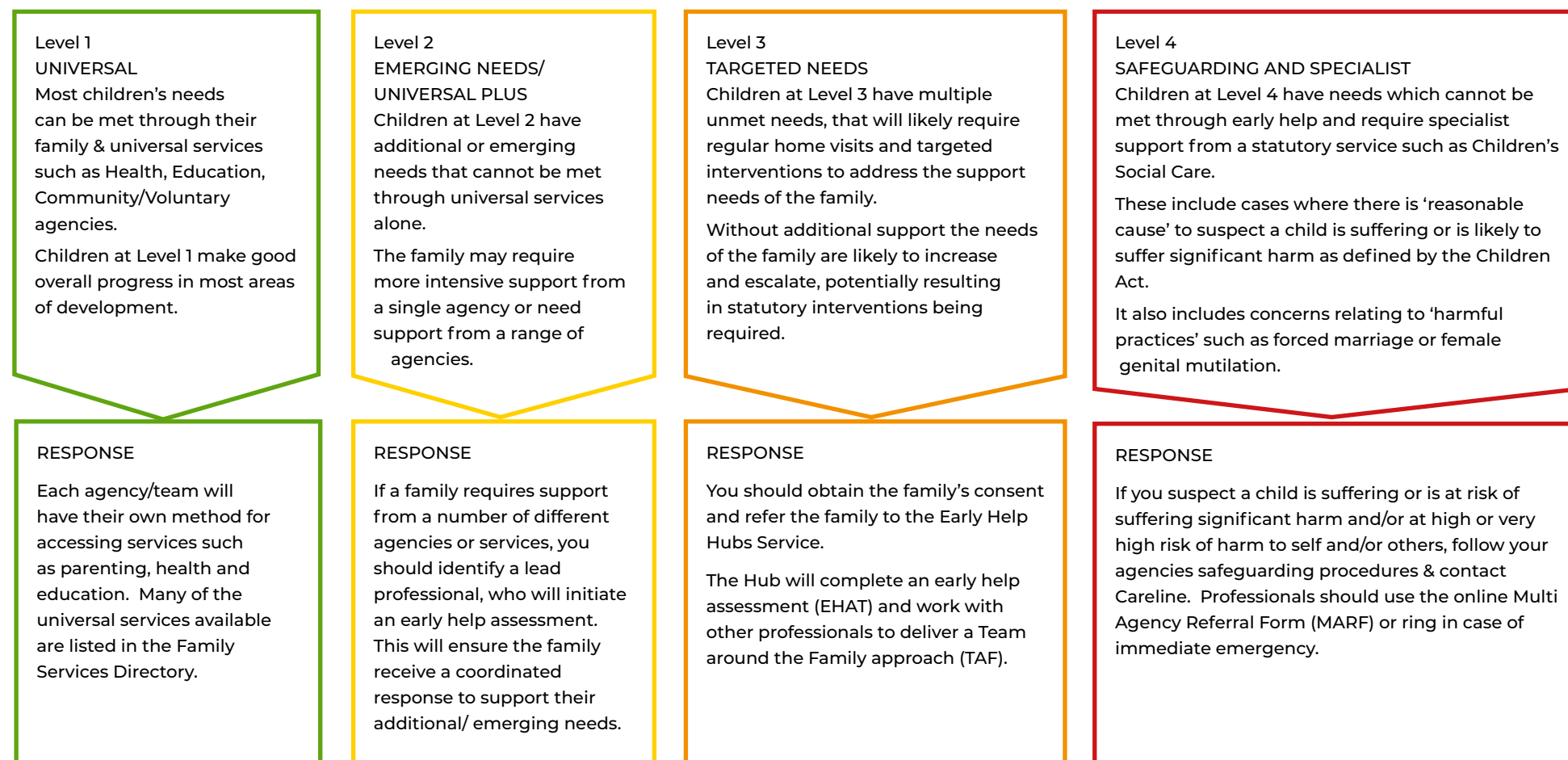
The window screen below illustrates the four levels across the continuum of need. A child may move up or down the continuum according to their needs



2. Understanding the levels of need and how to use this guide

The guide provides a description of factors across each level of the continuum; these factors that should be considered when assessing a child and family's level of need. It is not prescriptive, and it recognises that families may have a combination of different needs across different levels. When using the guide to determine the level of need, practitioners should use their professional judgement, informed

by their knowledge of the family and information gathered from other agencies who know the child and family. It is important when considering the level of need that practitioners consider what a child's day to day 'lived experience' is like. The 'lived experience' is what a child sees, hears, thinks, and experiences daily and how these impact on them and affect their wellbeing.



Circumstances and Key Factors

Level 1

Level 2

Level 3

Level 4

Health and wellbeing

- Meeting developmental milestone
- Good hygiene
- Adequate diet/hygiene/clothing
- Appropriately cared for when unwell
- Developmental checks/immunisations up to date
- Regular dental/optical care
- Health appointments kept
- Age-appropriate social care and communication skills

Education and Learning

- Attending school and nursery
- Appropriate stimulation, boundaries and guidance
- Good relationships with peers
- Achieving educational milestones
- Good level of self esteem

Health and wellbeing

- Health and wellbeing
- Missing/poor attendance at medical appointments
- Emerging evidence that developmental milestones are not being reached
- Emerging concerns re: diet/hygiene/sleep routines
- Frequent illnesses/infections/minor injuries
- Experimenting with alcohol (consider age and social circumstance)
- Parents struggling to meet emotional needs
- Presenting with sexual behaviour that is not age appropriate

Education and Learning

- Some identified learning or physical disability needs, requiring support
- Emerging patterns of poor attendance at school/nursery
- Young person refusing to go

Health and wellbeing

- Evident concerns re: diet/hygiene, sleep routines
- Recurring health problems
- Refusing to register with a GP
- Substance misuse
- Developmental milestones are unlikely to be met without additional support
- Concerns around emotional and mental well-being
- Non-attendance at essential health appointments
- Basic care needs are not being consistently met
- Serious lack of stability and routine appropriate stimulation, boundaries and guidance
- Complex or multiple health issues being met by a variety of health professionals
- Parental mental health needs effecting parenting

Health and wellbeing

- Severe/chronic health problems
- Persistent substance misuse impacting on the ability to meet child's needs and keep them safe
- Developmental delay evident as a result of needs not being met by parent/carer
- Serious mental health issues impacting on the ability to meet child's needs and keep them safe
- Severe and chronic mental health problems for which appropriate treatment is not being sought
- No engagement with health professionals
- At risk of female genital mutilation (FGM)
- Children and young people whose parents fabricate or induce illness

Level 1

Level 2

Level 3

Level 4

Family & Environment

- Positive attachments
- Suitable home environment
- Able to recognise unsafe activities
- Secure relationships/ attachments

Social relationships/ engagement

- Parents are able to offer stability
- Good access to appropriate support within the immediate & wider family members
- Effective support networks
- Suitable accommodation
- Parents economically active

to school

- Not always engaged in learning – poor concentration/ low motivation
- Fixed term exclusion
- Young person over 16 who is not in education, training, or employment (NEET)

Family & Environment

- Young parents who are struggling to cope
- Parents struggling with their own emotional needs
- At risk of eviction through non-payment of rent
- Young person beginning to misuse substances
- Inadequate/poor housing/ home conditions due to overcrowding/lack of heating
- Family where concerns are beginning to emerge about substance misuse

Education and Learning

- Frequent school absence
- Repeated permanent exclusions
- Repeated fixed term exclusions
- Reluctance to leave school
- Frequent changes of school
- Limited access to toys and stimulation
- Young person is unable to cope with everyday life

Family and Environment

- Repeated incidents of domestic abuse
- Exposed to unsafe situations
- Financial difficulties preventing child or young person's basic needs from being met
- Young inexperienced parents with no support
- Inadequate supervision/ inappropriate care arrangement

Education and Learning

- Denied access to stimulation
- Non-attendance at school/ persistent absences which are seriously impairing development
- Strapped in a pram or car seat for long periods resulting in restricted opportunity to be mobile

Family and Environment

- Subject to physical, emotional or sexual abuse or neglect
- Person identified as posing a risk to children living in the family home
- Child previously removed from parents
- Family is experiencing serious domestic abuse
- Children who abuse other children
- Family with no recourse to Public Funds
- Unaccompanied asylum seeker
- Private fostering arrangements – child is under

Level 1**Level 2****Level 3****Level 4****Social relationships/
engagement**

- Young carers
- Some difficulties building and sustaining relationships with adults and peers
- Child or young person presenting increasing problem behaviour and parents and school are finding it difficult to manage
- Young person has started to go missing/absent from home

Social relationship/engagement

- Challenging and disruptive behaviour impact on daily life, achievements, and relationships
- Evident poor self-care for age, including hygiene
- Parents have a learning disability that may impact on their parenting ability
- Child or young person disappear from home regularly/for long periods
- Challenging/disruptive behaviour putting others or self in danger

16 and living with a family friend, distant relative or other non-immediate relation / parent as part of a private arrangement

- Child at risk of harm from sexual or criminal exploitation

Social relationships/engagement

- Prosecution of offences resulting in court orders (sexual or violent)
- Child subject to emotional abuse with no self-esteem/self-worth
- Parents have a significant learning disability that may impact on their ability to meet child's needs and keep them safe
- Child at risk of forced marriage or honour-based abuse

Examples of Services –

The below lists are not exhaustive and are a guide only

Level 1: Universal

- Early Years and Childcare
- Children and Family Centres
- Family Hubs
- Education Services & Schools
- Primary Health Care Services
- Community Health Care
- Voluntary and Community Services
- Youth Services
- Social Prescribing Teams

Level 2: Emerging Needs / Universal Plus

- Fusion Short Breaks Service for children with SEN/Disabilities
- Parenting Network - (parenting courses)
- CAMHS
- ADDvanced Solutions
- Kinship Carers
- **PLUS - Universal Services listed under Level 1**

Level 3: Targeted Needs

Early Help Hubs:

- 0-9 Team
- Outreach Family Support
- Therapeutic Social Workers
- Step Forward Adult Mental Health
- School Family Support Service
- Targeted Services for Young People
- Youth Justice Services
- **PLUS - Services listed under Levels 1 & 2**

Level 4: Safeguarding and Specialist

Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

Children's Social Care:

- Assessment Teams
- Safeguarding Teams
- Permanence Teams (Cared for Children)
- CAMHS
- Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children Team
- Care Experienced Teams
- **PLUS - Services listed under Levels 1 & 2**

Things to Consider

Sharing information: Information sharing helps to ensure a child receives the right services at the right time and prevents a need from becoming more difficult to meet. Don't assume that someone else will pass on information. If in doubt, speak to your manager.

Challenging other professionals: Challenging other professionals can be difficult. If you don't agree with a decision made by another professional, it is important that you speak to your manager. The Local Children's Safeguarding Partnership has an escalation policy which provides a clear process on how disagreements between partner agencies should be dealt with. The focus of your challenge should be the child's lived experience.

Finally....

Remember, if you are unsure about which level and children and their family are at, remember you can speak to a consultant social worker in the Early Help Hubs, and they will advise you.

