

All Staff who are aware of concerns about the welfare or safety of a child should know:

- What services are available locally
- How to gain access to services
- What sources of further advice and expertise are available
- Who to contact in what circumstances
- When and how to make a referral to Children's Social Care

If there are concerns you can:

- Discuss concerns with a manager or designated member of staff in your specialism
- Discuss concerns without identifying the child with Senior Colleagues in another agency to develop an understanding of the child's needs and circumstances and appropriate actions
- Always record the outcomes of discussions about a child's welfare including what action is to be taken

If concerns remain you should:

- Seek consent of the family and child to undertake a Common Assessment
- If the assessment identifies the need for services then call a Change Meeting

BUT

- If you believe that a child may be suffering or is at risk of suffering significant harm then always refer to Children's Social Care
- Concerns may also come to light about a child already known to social care
- In both of these circumstances you should always discuss concerns with the family and seek their agreement to making a referral to Children's Social Care unless to do so would place the child at increased risk of significant harm

Common Assessment Framework – A national standard assessment to determine if a child has additional / unmet need

Change Meeting – A meeting of professionals from different agencies with the purpose of providing services to improve outcomes for children

Lead Professional – A member of the children's workforce who co-ordinates actions and services provided by different agencies involved with the child / young person

Section 47 Enquiries – Where the police and/or social care investigate concerns to decide if action is needed to protect a child and/or a criminal offence has been committed



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Level 1

Children with no additional needs accessing Universal services (including, for example, schools and primary health care)

Level 2

Children with additional needs that can be met within the span of a single agency

Level 3a

Children with additional needs that require a co-ordinated, multi-agency response - offered a Common Assessment, a Change Meeting and services facilitated by a Lead Professional

Level 3b

Children with a high level of needs and where parenting is compromised, who are at risk of becoming Level 4

Level 4

Children with significant needs and compromised parenting/caring and in need of protection from harm

Safeguarding Vulnerable Children – Thresholds for Intervention

Level of Vulnerability	Indicators	Responses
	The indicators listed below are examples only.	
<p>Level 1 – Children with no additional needs accessing Universal services (including, for example, schools and primary health care)</p>		
<p>Level 2 - Children with additional needs that can be met within the span of a single agency</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children who present a management problem to parents • Children in families where there is poor hygiene • Children identified by schools as requiring additional educational support • Children with a minor disability that require extra support • Children involved in criminal activity • Children returning home, having been Looked After by the local authority • Children in households where there are initial indications of domestic violence where children are not at immediate risk of significant harm • Children starting to have unauthorised absences from school • Children of families seeking asylum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek advice from the designated manager in your agency • Undertake a service specific assessment and determine the need for services Eg Health assessment if hygiene is an issue School assessment if attendance is an issue • Identify the need for extra services and provide • Log the concern and your action with the Change Co-ordinator • Agencies are responsible for determining the range of services they can provide at Level 2
<p>Level 3a – Children with additional needs that require a co-ordinated multi-agency response – Offered a Common Assessment, a Change Meeting and services facilitated by Lead Professional</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children with a significant emotional and / or behavioural disorder • Young Carers • Children with chronic absence from school • Children beyond parental control • Children in families without permanent accommodation • Children with chronic ill health or terminal illness • Children involved in substance misuse • Unaccompanied asylum seekers • Children in households where the parenting is compromised as a consequence of parental disability, mental health, substance misuse or domestic violence, although the child's needs are not at a high level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer a Common Assessment with consent of family/child/young person. If outcome indicates need for multi-agency services • Arrange a Change Meeting • Appoint a Lead Professional
<p>Level 3b – Children with a high level of needs and where the parenting is compromised as a consequence of parental physical disability, mental health, substance misuse or domestic violence Children who are at risk of becoming level 4 Children Act 2004 places a duty on all agencies to make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children Safeguarding children means all agencies take responsibility to intervene early to provide appropriate support to children who have additional needs to prevent them from becoming children at risk of significant harm</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children with disabilities • Children at this level are likely to be at a high level of risk because the parenting they receive is likely to be compromised by some of the following factors: • Children with high level needs whose parents are unable for whatever reason to meet their basic needs • Children in families where there has been one serious or several significant instances of domestic violence • Children for whom a Change Meeting has already been held with no discernable improvement in outcome • Children who have previously been on the Child Protection Register • Children with high level needs whose parents have a history of not engaging with professionals / agencies • Children with high level needs whose parents do not accept the concerns of professionals • Children with high level needs from families where there is little confidence that parents will accept services or remain involved with them • Children with high level needs who are not currently being monitored by any agency • Pregnant women where the safety of the unborn child may be compromised • Children from families experiencing a crisis likely to result in a breakdown of care arrangements 	<p>Referral to Social Care for Initial Assessment to identify appropriate services or the need for a multi-agency Core Assessment or the need for a Strategy Discussion to determine significant harm or a Change Meeting to plan and review services (01942 828844)</p> <p>All services will need a multi – agency Safeguarding Plan</p> <p>These children will all have a formal review that has the same status as a Child Protection Review</p> <p>N.B.: Children at this level may move between Level 3 and Level 4 and are amongst the most vulnerable</p>
<p>Level 4 – Children experiencing significant harm or where there is a risk of significant harm A child shall be taken to be in need of protection where a local authority: (a) Is informed that a child who lives, or is found, in their area – 1. Is the subject of an emergency protection order; or 2. Is in police protection; or (b) Has reasonable cause to suspect that a child who lives, or is found, in their area is suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm The authority shall make or cause to be made, such enquiries as they consider necessary to enable them to decide whether they should take any action to safeguard or promote the child's welfare Children Act 1989 s 47 (1)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children subject to Public Law Proceedings in the Family Court • Children on the Child Protection Register • Children where physical, sexual or emotional abuse or neglect or fabricated illness is suspected • Children whose parents are unable to provide care, for whatever reason • Children whose behaviour is so extreme they are at risk of removal from home eg control issues, risk taking, dangerous behaviour, at risk of sexual exploitation • Children who disappear or are missing from home regularly or for long periods • Children in households where parents / carers have mental health, substance dependency or domestic violence issues which put children at risk of significant harm • Where a pre-birth assessment has identified an unborn child to be at risk of significant harm 	<p>Refer to Social Care on 01942 828300 (Monday to Friday 9-5) or to the Police (0161 872 5050)</p> <p>A multi-agency Initial Assessment will be carried out to determine the provision of services</p> <p>A Strategy Discussion to determine the need for s47 enquiries between the Police, Social Care and other agencies, as necessary</p> <p>Undertake a multi-agency Core Assessment</p> <p>Determine the need for an Initial Child Protection Conference if the child may continue to suffer significant harm</p> <p>Consider holding a Change Meeting after formal advice</p>