

## UNDERSTANDING THE LEVELS OF NEED

Level of Need	Description	
<p><b>Level 1</b> Universal Services</p>	<p>Anyone can access universal services. These are services such as GPs and Health Visitors who provide health advice and treatment to all children. Every child has a right to an education. This is provided through schools, unless children are identified as being educated at home.</p> <p>The majority of children living in each local authority area require support from universal services alone. Children, young people and their families who receive universal services have no additional needs; all their health and developmental needs will be met by universal services. These are children who consistently receive child focused care-giving from their parents or carers.</p>	
<p><b>Level 2</b> Additional</p>	<p>Children, young people and their families who require some extra support or intervention in addition to what every child receives, to help them reach their potential. This may be short term, but requires a targeted service to support the child and their family.</p> <p>It is possible for different agencies to provide a targeted service to different members of a family at this level.</p> <p>You will need parental consent to share relevant information with other involved professionals.</p>	
<p><b>Level 3</b> Complex</p>	<p>Children, young people and their families who require significant or complex personalised support, often from several agencies working together, to help them reach their potential. These children continue to need the support of universal services.</p> <p>Effective intervention may be short term, but might require longer term involvement, particularly where families have a variety of complex needs.</p> <p>For some families the threshold may be met for an assessment led by Children's Social Care (CSC) under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989. The services required as a result of an assessment may come from a range of agencies outside of CSC.</p>	
<p><b>Level 4</b> Acute</p>	<p>These children are suffering or are likely to suffer significant harm. This is the threshold where child protection procedures may need to be put in place. This means that children may be referred to Children's Social Care under Sections 20, 47 or 31 of the Children Act 1989. This would also include those children remanded to the care of the Local Authority or to custody and statutory youth offending services.</p> <p>This level includes Tier 4 health services which include residential, day patient or outpatient settings for children and adolescents with severe and/or complex health problems.</p>	

Examples of Services	What you need to do
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✎ Early years (Nurseries/Child minders)</li> <li>✎ Education/School place</li> <li>✎ GP / Dentist</li> <li>✎ Maternity services</li> <li>✎ Health Visiting service</li> <li>✎ School nursing</li> <li>✎ Housing</li> <li>✎ Community health care</li> <li>✎ Youth centres / Leisure Services</li> <li>✎ Children's Centres</li> </ul>	<p>All children and families should receive universal services such as health care and education, as well as early years and youth services.</p> <p>Professionals working with families should check if children are in receipt of universal services and take appropriate action where this is not the case or consider whether to step up to Level 2.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✎ Parenting support</li> <li>✎ School holiday and short breaks provision for disabled children</li> <li>✎ Extra health support for family members</li> <li>✎ Behavioural/learning support</li> <li>✎ Educational Psychologist</li> <li>✎ Special Educational Needs (SEN) support</li> <li>✎ Housing support</li> <li>✎ Primary Mental Health Link Workers</li> <li>✎ Help to find education and employment</li> <li>✎ Speech and language therapy</li> <li>✎ Pupil Referral Unit support as outreach</li> <li>✎ Children's centres</li> <li>✎ Targeted youth work</li> <li>✎ Drug and alcohol early intervention</li> <li>✎ Domestic abuse early intervention</li> <li>✎ Channel Panel/Regional Police Prevent Team</li> </ul>	<p>Professionals should talk to the family and carry out an Early Help Assessment in order to identify appropriate services that could improve outcomes for the child.</p> <p>The aim of the Early Help Assessment is to ensure the child receives <b>the right service, in the right place, at the right time</b> with regular reviews to understand the effectiveness of the intervention and the impact on meeting the child's needs as children develop. The child will either step down to Level 1 or step up to Level 3.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✎ Existing or previous Early Help Assessment</li> <li>✎ Existing lead professional</li> <li>✎ Multiple service provision</li> <li>✎ Children with disabilities whose needs are not met by Universal Services</li> <li>✎ Families who are identified through the Troubled Families programme</li> <li>✎ High level Special Educational Needs and Disability – Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC)</li> <li>✎ Domestic abuse services</li> </ul>	<p>Professionals must talk to the family about completing an Early Help Assessment which is to ensure the child receives <b>the right service, in the right place, at the right time</b>.</p> <p>A team around the child/family meeting must take place to agree a co-ordinated response which will be detailed in an action plan. CSC may carry out a statutory Children and Families assessment if the children in need threshold is met.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✎ Children's Social Care statutory involvement</li> <li>✎ Fostering and residential care</li> <li>✎ Youth Offending Service / Police</li> <li>✎ Specialist CAMHS</li> <li>✎ Drug and alcohol services</li> <li>✎ Domestic abuse services</li> <li>✎ In-patient and continuing health care</li> <li>✎ Health care for children with life limiting illness</li> <li>✎ Services for children with profound and enduring disability</li> <li>✎ Channel Panel/Regional Police Prevent Team</li> </ul>	<p>Professionals must make a referral to Somerset Direct and/or other specialist services.</p> <p>For child protection concerns CSC will carry out a statutory Children and Families assessment and take appropriate action needed to safeguard the child under statutory child protection procedures.</p>