

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

Please speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead:
Hannah Pallôt or Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead:
Rachel Heffer immediately with any concerns.
MARU: 0300 1231 116 LADO: 01872 326536

Threshold of Need



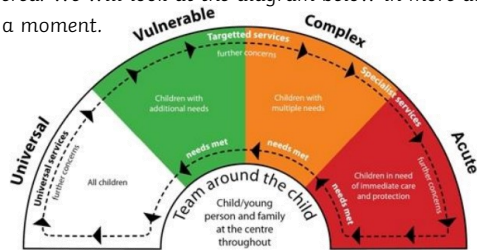
Every Moment Matters

Seven Minute Safeguarding

WB 27th June 2022

What do we mean by 'Threshold of Need'?

The Threshold (or Continuum) of Need has arisen out of the need for a common language and common framework which allows professionals to make decisions about a child's wellbeing with confidence. It allows professionals involved with a family or child to measure the progress of through the appropriate support being offered. We will look at the diagram below in more detail in a moment.



This diagram will take you to the CIOS Safeguarding Partnership Threshold Toolkit.

Why do we have a 'Threshold of Need'?

[Working Together to Safeguard Children](#) (2018) sets out a clear expectation that local agencies will work together and collaborate to identify children with additional needs and provide support as soon as a problem emerges. Providing [early help](#) is far more effective in promoting the welfare of children - and keeping them safe - than reacting later, when any problems, for example neglect, may have become more entrenched. The importance of using a child-centred approach in following the child's journey is also emphasised. All services which are provided must be based on a clear understanding of the needs and views of the individual child in their family and community context.

What are the different levels of need?

There are four levels of need outlined in the diagram: Universal (level 1); Vulnerable (level 2); Complex (level 3) and Acute (level 4). The hyperlinks on each level will take you to a more detailed breakdown of the signs, symptoms, support and services provided by Cornwall and Isles of Scilly (COIS) Safeguarding Partnership.

[Level 1](#) – Universal needs. These are children with no additional needs; all their health and developmental needs are met by universal services (GP, dentist, quality education). The majority of children living in each local authority area require support from universal services alone

[Level 2](#) – Vulnerable. These are children with additional needs which are met through a single agency response and partnership working. (i.e. additional support at school, medical assistance for a specific need). They may be vulnerable and showing early signs of abuse and/or neglect; their needs are not clear, not known or not being met. This is the threshold for a multi-agency early help assessment to begin

[Level 3](#) – Complex. These are children who are unlikely to achieve or maintain a satisfactory level of health or development, or their health and development will be significantly impaired, without the provision of services; or children who are disabled. They may require longer term intervention from statutory and specialist services. This is the threshold for an assessment led by children's social care under [Section 17 Children Act 1989](#);

[Level 4](#) – Acute. These children are suffering or are likely to suffer significant harm. They will require intensive support under Section 47 Children Act 1989. This is the threshold for child protection.

The use of the chronology is often key in successfully completing the Threshold Matrix. All concerns should be recorded on MyConcern.

How is the [Threshold Tool](#) used?

The Threshold Matrix on page 7 of the document can be used to create a profile of individual needs and vulnerability. The DSL will complete the matrix in consultation with class teachers and, where appropriate, teaching assistants (particularly in the case of a child who receives 1:1 support) It is not necessary to complete all areas of the matrix if you do not have the evidence to do so and it is not an area of concern. The needs of children and young people rarely fit into neat categories, and often change over time. The threshold matrix has been designed to inform the early identification of vulnerability and need and can be used to start the process to clarify concerns and/or monitor progress. The needs of all the children of a family should be taken into account, for example the impact of caring for a disabled child on the parent/carer's capacity to meet the needs of other children in the family.

The categories in the matrix include: Development (health); Development (Wellbeing); Development (Learning); Parents and Carers; Family and Environmental Factors.

If you would like a paper copy of the Threshold Tool, please email the DSL.
dsl@perran-ar-worthal.cornwall.sch.uk