

1 Background

The Thresholds of Need and Response Framework is a practical tool to:

- enable practitioners to identify the levels of risk and needs of children and their families
- to ensure that the children and their families access the appropriate level of support according to their changing circumstances; over four levels.
- provide a common language for multi-agency professionals
- improve outcomes for families in Salford

2 Levels of Need

- **Level 1: Universal Need.** Needs and risk met by universal services
- **Level 2: Early Help.** Unmet needs and low risks met by single agency support and partnership working. Needs met through the Early Help Assessment and TAF process using an asset based solution focused model.
- **Level 3: Child in Need (CIN):** This meets section 17 of the Children Act 1989, and is a higher levels of unmet needs and medium risk. A social worker will be involved and it requires a multi-agency co-ordinated response.
- **Level 4: Specialist Assessment.** High level of unmet complex needs – child may be ‘In Need’ or ‘At Risk of Significant Harm’. Need intensive coordinated multi-agency support and support at level 3 has not improved outcomes.

7 Questions

- Is the local thresholds criteria clear, accessible and understood?
- How has the thresholds framework impacted on:
 1. Children and families?
 2. Your practice?
 3. Multi-agency work?
 4. Wider community?

3 Level of Need Indicators

- Help build a picture of the need for support
- Children may move up and down the levels depending on need.
- **Go straight to level 4 if risk of significant harm.**
- Concerns at level 4 do not require consent for referrals to be made or information shared.

6 Further Information

- [Thresholds of Need and Response in Salford 2019](#)
- [Early Help Practitioner zone](#)
- [Early Help Strategy 18-21](#)
- [Lead Professional Handbook](#)
- [Working Together 2018](#)
- [Greater Manchester Procedures](#)

4 What to do

- Keep the children’s welfare central.
- Listen to their views.
- Think family
- Identify needs early.
- Practitioners can hold a professionals meeting to reflect on the risks and plan a response if there is persistent family non-engagement or no sustained improved outcomes.
 - Always follow up your concerns if you are not satisfied with the response and should [escalate](#) their concerns if they remain dissatisfied.



- **Worried that a child?** Complete an [online referral](#) to Bridge Partnership
- **If a child is in immediate danger call 999.**
- If in doubt consult with your Safeguarding Lead or the Bridge Partnership

Bridge Partnership
 T: 0161 603 4500
 E: worriedaboutachild@salford.gov.uk
 W: www.salford.gov.uk/worriedaboutachild

Additional information

Visit: www.partnersinsalford.org/sscb/
 Email: SSCB@salford.gov.uk



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