

Housing, Employment and Finance

- No fixed abode and homeless
- Family living in extreme poverty

Social and Community Resources

- Child or family need immediate support and protection due to harassment /discrimination and no access to community resources

Parental Capacity

Basic Care, Safety and Protection

- Parent is unable to meet child's needs without support
- Child whose supervision is severely negligent and/or is exposed to immediate danger
- Child having (or likely to have) contact with a person posing a risk
- Chronic substance misuse by parent/carer
- Children who pose a risk to other people

Emotional Warmth and Stability

- Parents unable to manage and risk of family breakdown
- Severe mental illness of parent
- Parent(s) with severe learning difficulties

Guidance Boundaries and Stimulation

- Parent is not a good role model e.g. condones antisocial behaviour

Process for Level 3

Family CAF and TAF completed – If insufficient progress or increase in risk then Initial Assessment (section 17 C.A. '89)

Child protection Core assessment (section 47 C.A. '89)

Comprehensive assessment and formulation of a care plan

Additional services: The Family Common Assessment can be used as supporting evidence to gain specialist and/or targeted support but this must not replace a statutory or specialist assessment

Key agencies that may provide support at this level:

Specialist health or disability services

Youth offending service specialist drug and alcohol services

Specialist CAMHS

Family support services children's centres Presens, Speech and language services and Nursery providers

Educational psychologists, educational welfare ACE & EOTAS

Voluntary and community services

Triple P level 5 – pathways group and individual

Functional Family Therapy

Family Intervention Project

Social work

Supporting Families

in Brighton & Hove

This booklet outlines the levels of need and common risk triggers for beginning a Family Common Assessment.

It introduces the continuum of need model to identify the needs and corresponding services for children and families requiring support.



NHS



**Brighton & Hove
City Council**

The three levels of need

Three levels of need have been identified to summarise the requirements of children so that the appropriate level of support can be put in place.

Level 1 – Low to vulnerable need

Children with low level additional needs that are likely to be short-term and that may be known but will not be met unless additional support eg. a team around the Family (TAF) is provided



Level 2 – Vulnerable to complex need

Children with moderate to high level additional/unmet needs likely to require a Team around the Family (TAF) or longer term intervention from statutory/specialist services.



Level 3 – Complex to acute need

Children with Complex additional unmet needs and /or acute urgent situations of concern or risk

The continuum of need

The continuum of need will match the level of service required for each level of need.

It sets a consistent approach for:

- three levels of need and corresponding service intervention
- beginning the Family Common Assessment framework (CAF) process

This should improve access to appropriate services and help remove barriers to delivering integrated services. It also recognises that children may move from one level of need to another and agencies may offer support at more than one level.

Using the continuum of need does not guarantee service provision by particular agencies at each level as there may be restricting factors such as:

- Specific service criteria related to the agency's specialist area of work
- Previous interventions
- Geographical location
- Age limits
- Time limited provision e.g. only available during term time

Where there's an immediate need to protect a child because they are being harmed or are at risk of harm, the practitioner must contact Brighton & Hove's children's social work teams and/or police directly and make a phone referral. All practitioners must follow their local referral process and follow up with a written referral.

Note: The Brighton & Hove continuum of need is based on the London Continuum of Need which was established in consultation with local authorities and their partners. It is not an exhaustive list of all the possible scenarios and practitioners should always use their professional judgement.

Level 1 – Low to vulnerable need

These children have low level additional needs. Child's needs are not clear, may be known or unknown, but are not being met

- Child with additional needs requiring multi-agency intervention. Lead professional and Team around the Family
- Enhanced, targeted intervention for under fives with additional needs, move to Family CAF if no progress

Development needs

Learning/ Education

- Regular truanting or non attendance, NEET or few or no qualifications
- School Action Plus where there may be additional family needs
- Identified language and communication difficulties or potential learning barriers such as dyslexia
- Reduced access to books, toys or educational materials

Health

- Slow in reaching developmental milestones
- Missing immunisations or checks
- Minor health problems which can be supported in a mainstream school
- Overweight/underweight/enuresis/encopresis
- Co-ordination disorders such as dyspraxia

Social, Emotional, Behavioural, Identity

- Low level mental health or emotional issues requiring intervention, such as ADHD
- Pro offending behaviour and attitudes and / or associating with anti social or criminally active peers
- Early onset of offending behaviour or activity (10-14), low level offending
- Expressing wish to become pregnant at young age or early onset of sexual activity (13-14)
- Sexual activity (15+) with inconsistent use of contraception
- Low level substance misuse (current or historical)

Self-Care and Independence

- Lack of age appropriate behaviour and independent living skills that increase vulnerability

Family and Environmental Factors

Family and Social Relationships and Family Well-Being

- Parents/carers have relationship difficulties which may affect the child or a history of domestic violence
- Parents request advice/support to manage their child's behaviour or disability
- Children affected by difficult family relationships or bullying

Housing, Employment and Finance

- Overcrowding, or in temporary accommodation
- Families affected by low income or unemployment

Social and Community Resources

- Insufficient facilities to meet needs e.g. transport/access issues
- Family require support as a result of social exclusion, or no access to local facilities
- Limited access to contraceptive and sexual health advice, information and services
- Victim of crime including discrimination, or child subject to racial abuse

Parental Capacity

Basic Care, Safety and Protection

- Inconsistent care e.g. inappropriate child care arrangements or young inexperienced parent

Emotional Warmth and Stability

- Inconsistent parenting, but development not significantly impaired

Guidance Boundaries and Stimulation

- Lack of response to concerns raised about child

Process for Level 1

Family Common Assessment Framework (CAF)

- A Family CAF should be completed with the child and family to identify their strengths and needs and to gain specialist support. A Team around the Family set up to meet needs
- Programmes aiming to build self-esteem and enhance social/life skills.
- For developmental delay consider referral to the Child Development and Disability Service
- Positive activities

Key agencies that may provide support both at a universal and targeted level:

Youth services, information, advice, education about drugs and alcohol, including harm reduction advice to support informed choices

Health, education children's centres and early years

Community mental health consultation and early intervention educational psychologists, educational welfare and school nurses

Ethnic minority achievement services (EMAS) learning mentors

Specialist play services

Voluntary and community services

Triple P Tip sheets plus level 2-4 – seminars or groups

Families and Schools Together (FAST)



Level 2 – Vulnerable to complex need

Children with high level additional/unmet needs and/or multiple needs likely to require longer term intervention from a multi-agency Team around the Family/specialist services

- These children are at risk of moving to a high level of risk if they do not receive early intervention
- Children who have been recently assessed as 'high risk', whose names no longer need to be subject to child protection plans, but require continuing multi-agency services through a TAF
- A child subject to three referrals to social worker within a year or where there is un-assessed risk

Development needs

Learning/ Education

- At risk of permanent exclusion or persistent truanting, (where this leads to deterioration of intellectual development)
- School Action Plus, statutory assessment of SEN where there may be additional family needs

Health

- Physical and emotional development raising significant concerns
- Chronic/recurring health problems linked to a lack of engagement with health services
- Missed appointments - routine and non-routine
- Identified disabilities requiring continued intervention

Social, Emotional, Behavioural, Identity

- Under 16 and has had (or caused) a previous pregnancy ending in still birth, abortion or miscarriage
- 16+ and has had (or caused) two or more previous pregnancies, is a teenage parent, or under 16 and pregnant
- Coming to notice of police and referred on a regular basis (MOGP1) but not progressed
- Evidence of regular/frequent drug use combined with other risk factors or escalation of substance misuse
- Mental health issues requiring specialist community intervention
- Significant low self esteem, disruptive challenging behaviour, unable to cope with anger or frustration
- Self-harming behaviour

Self-Care and Independence

- Abandoned, unaccompanied or vulnerable teenagers and homeless 16/17yrs
- Lack of age-appropriate behaviour and independent living skills, likely to impair development
- Children who regularly go missing and whose behaviour/activities places them at immediate risk

Family and Environmental Factors

Family and Social Relationships and Family Well-Being

- Domestic violence incident(s) that lead to a detrimental effect
- Risk of relationship breakdown with parent/carer and the child
- Young carers, privately fostered, periods of respite care or children in care or family and friends
- Child appears to have undifferentiated attachments
- Child has serial unstable placements and changes of carer
- Children in need of targeted services to prevent family breakdown
- Family in need of significant support to care for their child because of the impact of the child's disability

Housing, Employment and Finance

- Children living in an unsafe or inappropriate environment
- Homeless

Social and Community Resources

- Parents socially excluded, no access to local facilities

Parental Capacity

Basic Care, Safety and Protection

- Physical care or supervision of child is inadequate
- Parental learning disability, parental substance misuse or mental health impacting on parent's ability to meet the needs of the child or unborn child
- Parental non compliance with statutory services e.g. education

Emotional Warmth and Stability

- Inconsistent parenting impairing emotional or behavioural development

Guidance Boundaries and Stimulation

- Parent provides inconsistent boundaries or responses

Process for Level 2

Family CAF with a Team around the Family (TAF) plan

The Family Common Assessment and TAF plan can be used as supporting evidence to gain specialist / targeted support including a referral to children's social care

Statutory/specialist services Initial Assessment (section 17 C.A. '89)

The Family Common Assessment may also be completed to support a child moving out of complex needs

Key agencies that may provide support at this level:

Integrated youth support services

Child Development and Disability Service

SEN services

Specialist health or disability services

Youth offending service/provision of targeted drug and alcohol work

Specialist and community CAMHS

Children's centres, Presens, Speech and language services and Nursery providers

Educational psychologists, educational welfare and school nurses

Voluntary and community services

Triple P level 4 - group and individual



Level 3 – Complex to acute need

These children have complex additional unmet needs

- These children require a specialist/statutory integrated support
- Children experiencing significant harm that require statutory intervention such as child protection or legal intervention
- These children may also need to be accommodated by the local authority either on a voluntary basis or by way of court order
- These include enquiries in relation to children in care placed by other local authorities, or children where the alleged incident took place within our area
- Children who are subject to private law proceedings and the local authority is directed to undertake enquiries, file a report (section 7) or ordered to provide services e.g. family assistance order/supervision order
- Agencies should make a verbal referral to children's social care accompanied by a Family CAF and a TAF action plan

Development needs

Learning/ Education

- Chronic non-attendance, truanting
- Permanently excluded, frequent exclusions or no education provision
- No parental support for education
- Statutory assessment of SEN, statement of SEN, where additional needs

Health

- High level disability requiring significant multi professional involvement
- Serious physical and emotional health problems

Social, Emotional, Behavioural, Identity

- Challenging behaviour resulting in serious risk to the child and others
- Failure or rejection to address serious (re)offending behaviour
- Complex mental health issues requiring specialist interventions
- In sexually exploitative relationship
- Under 13yrs engaged in sexual activity
- Child's behaviour that puts their life in danger
- Distorted self image
- Young people experiencing current harm through their use of substances
- Young people with complicated substance problems requiring specific interventions and/or child protection
- Young people with complex needs whose issues are exacerbated by substance use

Self-Care and Independence

- Severe lack of age-appropriate behaviour and independent living skills likely to result in significant harm e.g. bullying

Family and Environmental Factors

Family and Social Relationships and Family Well-Being

- Disclosures of physical, emotional and or sexual abuse
- Child presents as likely to suffer neglect or is showing signs of neglect
- High levels of domestic violence that put the child at risk of significant harm
- Parents who were unable to care for their previous child(ren)
- Children in immediate danger and who need to be looked after outside of their own family
- Family requiring intensive support to enable them to continue to care for their disabled child