

Multi-Agency levels of Need and Response Framework

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Link to Levels of Need guidance:

www.manchestersafeguardingboards.co.uk/levels-need-multi-agency-decisions-framework

Visit the MSB website Signs of Safety resource:

www.manchestersafeguardingboards.co.uk/SoS

Visit the Early Help Practitioner zone at Help & Support Manchester:

hsm.manchester.gov.uk

BACKGROUND

The Multi-Agency Levels of Need and response Framework is a practical tool to enable practitioners to identify the level of need of a child or young person (CYP) and their family in an appropriate and proportionate manner.

The aim is to ensure that the CYP and their family have access to an appropriate level of support according to their changing circumstances; over five levels.

LEVELS OF NEED:

Level 1: Children, YP or families whose needs are, or can be, met by universal services.

Level 2: Children, YP or families with additional needs that can be met by single agency support or signposting to another agency.

Level 3: Children, YP or families who would benefit from a coordinated programme of support from more than one agency using the Early Help Assessment/ Team around the Family/Early Help hubs.

WHAT TO DO

- Keep the CYP's welfare central.
- Identify needs early.
- Support the whole family and involve them in decision making.
- Listen to the views and wishes of the child or YP.
- Escalate concerns if you are not satisfied with the response.

WHAT WILL CHANGE?

- Children, YP and their families will have access to an appropriate level of support, according to changing circumstances.
- Indicators will be used to identify the different Levels of Need.
- The Escalation procedure should be used if there are child protection concerns
 - Contact your manager or the MASH consultation line if you are unsure/unclear about the appropriate level of response.

LEVEL OF NEED INDICATORS:

- Help build a picture of the need for support and must be considered with careful professional judgement or safeguarding lead advice.
- Children may move up and down this continuum of need and so the response will need to be flexible. Where families need additional support, their needs should be identified through an Early Help Assessment, Team around the Family (TAF) meeting and in a multi-agency action plan.
- The TAF is the only place for making decisions about escalating or reducing the level of support.

HIGHER LEVELS OF NEED:

Level 4: Children, YP or families who need intensive coordinated support for complex issues and where support at level 3 has not improved outcomes.

Section 17 Child in need: across levels 4/5.

Level 5: Child or young person at risk of, or suffering, significant harm due to compromised parenting; or requiring care or acute services away from home.

