

Threshold Guidance

Multi-agency Threshold Guidance is a practical tool to enable Professionals to identify the level of need for a child and their family. This supports them to have access to appropriate, proportionate and timely support, according to their circumstances.

New guidance has been developed in consultation with partner agencies who work with children and families. The guidance is aimed to be used as a reference point by anyone in any sector or agency who may have worries about a child.

Threshold guidance does not replace statutory guidance; it offers an approach to working together.

Why Now & What is New?

- Ensures our duties are carried out in line with The Safeguarding Act 2018 & Safeguarding Together 2019
- Recognises our response to new legislation and policy guidance
- Multi-agency approach
- Broader description of risks and needs
- Inclusion of additional/wider factors that Professionals are required to recognise in their practice

Category of Risk Indicators

Disability, physical and/or emotional health needs

Extremism/radicalisation

Sexual abuse/sexual activity

Abuse and neglect

Young Carer

Police attention

Education

Social Development

Substance use

Harmful behaviours

Extra-familial harm

Domestic abuse

Principles of Practice

- Early Help and safeguarding is everyone's responsibility
- We will listen to children and families, ensure their voice is heard and action taken
- We will keep children at the centre of our work with families, ensuring the welfare of the child remains paramount
- Professionals will work effectively together in strong collaboration
- Ensure a culture of collective responsibility, challenge and escalation
- Services will be delivered as early as possible to prevent needs escalating

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The Right Help at the Right Time

A multi-agency guide to assess levels of need for children & families, and identifying the appropriate support in the Isle of Man

Thresholds of Need and Risk

"Levels of need" help Professionals determine whether the child and family can be appropriately and safely supported by services providing additional or targeted support, or whether the level of need and risk is such that specialist, statutory social work involvement is required.

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Universal	Early Help Additional Needs	Child with Complex Needs	Specialist Support

Level 3: Child with Complex Needs (CWCN)

Children where there is an increasing level of complex and/or multiple unmet/unclear needs where more intensive co-ordinated support is required.

A CWCN assessment and plan must be completed by an allocated Social Worker, and a multi-agency team in place to develop a robust multi-agency plan of support to prevent further escalation of concerns.

Level 4: Specialist Support

Children where there is reasonable cause to suspect the child is suffering, or likely to suffer significant harm. A Section 46 Strategy Meeting will be

convened to consider immediate protective measures required from Children and Families Service and the Police. A Section 46 NARRATES assessment will be completed by an allocated Social Worker.



Level 1: Universal

Children are making good overall progress and are thriving, through appropriate universal services. No additional, unmet needs are identified or there is a single need identified, which can be met by universal services.

Level 2: Early Help

Children with needs that cannot be met through universal services working independently. This includes children who have unclear needs.

Professionals from universal services work together in a co-ordinated way to provide additional support. An Early Help and Support assessment is essential and 'Child With Additional Needs' Co-ordinator should be allocated, who will be responsible for co-ordinating an Early Help and Support plan.