

7 What to do

Read and become familiar with the new [Level of Need Guidance](#)

Follow your agency's policies and procedures

Visit Sefton LSCB for the updates on multi-agency [Policies and Procedures](#).

Escalation Procedure all professionals using this guidance are reminded of the [LSCB Escalation Procedure](#) which outlines the process to be followed if you identify a need to escalate a concern about a child or young person.

If you wish to discuss individual cases, initially those discussions should take place with your agency's safeguarding lead.

If the safeguarding lead requires a consultation, contact Sefton MASH on: Tel. 0151 934 4481.

1 Background

The refreshed Level of Need guidance has been launched by Sefton Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). This replaces all previous threshold guidance. It is there to help professionals identify when a level of need – or trigger – has been reached, indicating when a child, young person or family might need support and identify where best to get this support from.

6 Additional Risk Factors included Within the Document:

- Homelessness
- Mental Health
- Children Missing Education
- Obesity
- Gang Activity
- Unemployment
- Substance Misuse
- Domestic Abuse
- Suicide/Self Harm
- Bullying
- Fabricated & Induced Illness

2 Development

The level of need guidance has been formulated by the partnership. It is not intended that the guidance takes away professional judgement, but will support informed decision making regarding levels of need. Developed in Partnership. Sefton LSCB held a multi-agency consultation event on the 17th July 2017 which brought together 70 professionals to share their views on the proposed draft document. In response, the recommendations have been woven into the new guidance.

5 Understanding the Levels of Need

Understanding levels of need and how they relate to the support of identified needs is vital to providing a solid, integrated intervention that will help children and young people achieve their full potential. As the needs of children and young children change we must provide 'the right intervention and help at the right time'. A smooth transition through the continuum is essential to support their journey from needing, to receiving the help and support they require. It is vital that children, young people and their families receive the support they need regardless of where they live or how accessible services are to them.

Children can move from one level to another, and as they do, their needs, as well as supplemental services, will increase or decrease. Movement between levels of services should happen fluidly by ensuring that information is shared appropriately and that evidence of involvement and interventions are recorded systematically.

4 Levels of Need

Level 1 – Children whose needs are fully met and who thrive: they aspire and achieve

Level 2 – Children with additional needs. The family who can meet their children's needs, with some additional support, usually in the short term

Level 3 – Children with multiple and complex needs: the family with multiple complex needs who can meet their children's needs with targeted and coordinated support

Level 4 – Children with acute needs includes those in need of protection – The family need multi-agency response including specialist intervention from children's social care

3 Consultation

Workforce Requested that we:

- Make the document more user friendly
- Remove confusion over level 3a/3b
- Provide measures against the indicators
- Introduce examples of Escalating Need
- Clarify Exploitation
- Include additional Risk Factor Consideration
- Better recognition of the unborn child

We Responded by:

- Simplifying the language and improving the format
- Scaling down the guidance to a more meaningful working document
- Including 'Important Factors' to consider when requesting advice, support or when making a referral
- Replacing Level 3a/3b with Levels 1 2 3 4