

# CHILD DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS

## Level 1

## Level 2

## Level 3

## Level 4

### Learning & Education

- Access to education provision appropriate to age and ability
- Access to employment (including work based learning) appropriate to age and ability
- Acquiring a range of skills/interests, experiences of success/achievement
- Access to books/toys, play, outside interests (sport, music, clubs)
- Attendance and achievement meet expectations

- Concerning school or early years attendance/punctuality
- No access to early education
- Concerning behaviour with exclusion being considered
- Identified learning needs - SEND Support plan or statutory EHCP process - linked to other unmet needs
- Identified language and communication difficulties linked to other unmet needs
- Gaps in schooling/learning due to pregnancy
- At risk of leaving school/academy Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)
- Limited access to resources for learning at home, e.g. books/ toys / support with school work
- Poor concentration, low motivation and interest
- At risk of not reaching educational potential

- Poor or rapidly declining school or early years attendance.
- Child not in education (may have been permanently excluded, but this indicator must be linked to other unmet needs).
- Concerning level of fixed-term exclusions, or permanent exclusion with no plan for re-engagement.
- Young person Not Engaged in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) post-16 with no plan for re-engagement.
- Persistent disruptive behaviour in early education setting /school.
- Achieving well below educational potential due to disruption, behaviour or exclusions.

- The child or young person missing from education for an extended period of time. This may be as a result of being permanently excluded which puts them at high risk extra familiar harm.
- Developmental milestones are significantly delayed or impaired.
- There are challenges with comprehension and the ability to solve problems is adversely impacting on all areas of their development creating risk of significant harm.
- The child is being educated by adults who are members of or have links to prescribed organisations.

### Health

- Physically well
- Developmental checks/immunisations up to date
- Health appointments are kept
- Adequate diet/hygiene/clothing
- Regular dental and optical care

- Slow in reaching developmental milestones
- Concern re diet/hygiene/clothing
- Not being brought for routine appointments e.g. immunisations and developmental checks
- Persistent minor health problems
- Weight is measurably above or below what would be expected
- Starting to default on appointments across health including antenatal,

- Parent does not support the child to access adequate health care, continual missed appointments including not being brought to CAMHS or CYPS sessions.
- Chronic/recurring health problems with missed appointments, routine and non-routine. Parent routinely not taking to necessary appointments, either through neglect or incapacity.
- Frequent accidental injuries to child requiring hospital treatment, where a

- The child or young person endangers own life through serious substance misuse.
- Acute mental health issues, resulting in serious risk to the child or to others. (E.g. active suicidal ideation, self-harm)
- Suspected non-accidental injury/abuse/neglect; disclosure of any abuse including historical.
- Bruising or any other injury in a non-mobile infant.

# CHILD DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS

hospital and GP

- Encopresis /enuresis (soiling and wetting)
- Low level mental health or emotional issues
- Low level substance misuse
- Any sexual health, mental health or SEMH that indicates, or is related to a heightened risk of extra-familial abuse.

level of parental neglect is indicated.

- Delay in achieving physical and other developmental milestones, raising concerns.
- Significant dental decay that has not been treated.
- Mental ill-health or emotional issues requiring specialist intervention.
- Very poor diet and/or unhealthy weight.
- Alcohol or drug misuse requiring specialist intervention.
- Serious delay in achieving physical and other developmental milestones, raising significant concerns.
- Significant regression in speech, communication or interaction where no medical cause has been identified.
- Risk factors relating to Female Genital Mutilation are present. (E.g. mother identified as a victim of FGM)
- Evidence of weapon related wounds/wounding

- There is evidence of Female Genital Mutilation.
- Concealed pregnancy where previous children have been removed.
- The child or young person has a complex physical or mental health condition or disability which is having an adverse impact on their physical, emotional or mental health and access to education.
- Despite support, the child undertakes no physical activity and has a diet which is adversely affecting their health and causing significant harm.

## Social, Emotions, Behaviour & Identity

- Demonstrates age appropriate responses in feelings and actions
- Good quality early attachments, child is appropriately comfortable in social situations
- Knowledgeable about the effects of crime and antisocial behaviour (age appropriate) Able to adapt to change
- Able to demonstrate empathy
- Positive sense of self and abilities
- Involved in leisure and other social activity

- Disruptive/challenging behaviour at home or in school or early years setting
- Emerging anti-social behaviour and attitudes and/or low level offending
- Child is victim of bullying or bullies others
- Difficulties in relationships with peer group and/or with adults
- Friendships and relationships inappropriate for age
- Low self esteem

- Persistent challenging behaviour at school, in the community and at home.
- Self-harming; suicidal thoughts in child/young person not accessing appropriate mental health support.
- Frequent missing episodes (if a child is missing for an extended period, or a number of missing episodes that would equate to a strategy discussion)
- Assessed as an emerging risk of sexual / criminal exploitation / extra-familial harm.
- Suspected victim of criminal

- The child or young person has difficulty regulating emotions, negatively impacting well-being and safety of others.
- Child or young person often engages in self-endangering or harmful behaviour, including chronic absenteeism from school.
- They have become isolated, refusing to participate in any activities.
- Difficulty addressing or resolving complex mental health concerns that require specialised treatment.
- The child or young person is

# CHILD DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS

- Demonstrates feelings or belonging and acceptance

- Concerns about sexual development and behaviour

- exploitation and recruited to a county line, with some level of evidence. Please note, once a child becomes fully involved with County Lines this now becomes S47.
- Emerging concerns about radicalisation or extremist views.

suspected or has been charged with sexual assault or abuse.

- Victim of grooming and parents incapable or unwilling to safeguard
- Significant risk of child exploitation, trafficking, or abuse based on evidence or arising concern.
- Frequently absent from home, at risk of harm or abuse, and subjected to prolonged periods of danger.
- Evidence of radicalisation where there is risk to the child or young person.
- At risk of honour-based violence.
- Has suffered bereavement and is self-harming and/or disclosing suicidal thoughts.
- Recent or past bereavement resulting in school/home absenteeism.
- Is thought to be at risk of child sexual exploitation or of involvement in gang/criminal activity.
- At risk of suffering from serious violence or harm.
- At risk of causing serious violence or harm.

## Universal and Early Help services should:

Provide targeted support to children, young people and families at the earliest point of identified need.

Support families to support themselves (thus reducing dependency)

Prevent problems escalating

Help families needing statutory interventions to be supported earlier

## This can be achieved by:

Local agencies working together to identify children and families with emerging problems and potential unmet needs;

Sharing information with other professionals to support early identification and assessment;

Providing universal and targeted Early Help services to address the assessed needs of a child and their family.

# CHILD DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS

## Self-care & Well-being

- Developing age appropriate level of practical and emotional skills
- Good level of personal hygiene
- Able to discriminate between 'safe' and 'unsafe' contacts
- Gaining confidence and skills to undertake activities away from the family

- Lack of age appropriate behaviour or independent living skills
- Socially isolated, without friends or excluded from social groups
- Inappropriate use of social media
- Friendships and relationships inappropriate for age
- Not always adequate self-care (where a young person could take responsibility), e.g. poor hygiene, unclean clothes

- Poor self-care for age, including hygiene and failure to access sexual health services.
- Regularly engaging in risk-taking behaviour or unaware of risk in own behaviours.
- Vulnerable to grooming/ exploitation or targeted online
- Victim of grooming and parent unable to intervene appropriately

- The child or young person is left unsupervised and at risk of immediate, significant harm.
- Regularly engaging in risk-taking behaviour resulting in significant harm despite professional interventions.
- In contact on-line with known offenders who pose a sexual, physical or emotional risk, and the risk of significant harm to the child can be evidenced.



# PARENTING CAPACITY

## Level 1

## Level 2

## Level 3

## Level 4

### Basic care, Safety & Protection

- Parents/Carers able to provide care for child's needs and protect from danger in the home and elsewhere.

- Requiring advice/support on parenting issues e.g. appropriate childcare arrangements, home conditions, basic routines and boundaries, low-level behaviour management (rewards/ sanctions)

- Parent is struggling to provide adequate care (this may be due to external pressures such as debt or housing or internal pressures such as mental ill-health, substance misuse or domestic abuse)
- Child's health needs not being adequately met.
- Professionals beginning to have concerns about child's physical, emotional or social needs being met.
- Parental stresses starting to affect ability to ensure child's safety or well-being.
- Poor supervision and attention to safety issues in and outside the home.
- Child exposed to ongoing domestic abuse or high level parental conflict. Direct negative impact upon the child or unborn child.
- Family breakdown - parent no longer wants to care for the child(ren), appropriateness of alternative requires assessment.

- Parents unable or unwilling to protect from significant risk of physical, sexual or emotional harm.
- Continual instability and violence in the home where significant harm to the child is evidenced.
- Parents have or may have abused/neglected the child/young person.
- Child not protected from sexual exploitation/abusive situations.
- Harm outside the home is beyond the parents control.
- Forced marriage of a child/young person under 18 years.
- Pre-birth assessment indicates unborn child is at risk of significant harm - refer at 16 weeks gestation.
- There are strong suspicions or evidence that the parent/carer is fabricating or inducing illness in their child.

# PARENTING CAPACITY

## Emotional warmth & Stability

- Parents/Carers provide secure and caring parenting and show warmth, praise and encouragement.

- Inconsistent responses to child by parents, including where parents are separated and/ or where care is delivered by multiple people
- Difficult parent/child relationship
- Starting to demonstrate difficulties with attachment
- Lack of response to concerns raised about child's welfare.

- Child receives erratic or inconsistent care
- Parental instability affects capacity to nurture/care
- Negative language is used to or about the child(ren) by parent.
- Parent speaks negatively to professionals about one or more of their children.
- Child/parent relationship at risk of breaking down.
- Parents' own emotional needs compromise those of the child/ young person.

- Parent(s) are emotionally abusive towards child(ren).
- Abandoned child or unaccompanied minor.
- Imminent family breakdown and credible evidence of risk to child from the proposed alternative care arrangements.
- The child's emotional needs have been neglected for an extended period, which has led them to be at a high risk of, or already involved in sexual or other exploitation as a victim or suspected of causing harm onto others.

## Guidance boundaries & Stimulation

- Parents/Carers provide age and stage appropriate guidance and boundaries to help child develop appropriate values.
- Parents/carers support development through interaction and play or involvement in activity outside the home.

- Parents offer inconsistent boundaries
- Behaviour problems not recognised and addressed by parents
- Lack of response to concerns raised about child
- Lack of appropriate parental guidance and boundaries for child's stage of development and maturity

- Child/young person receives little positive stimulation
- Boundaries are not applied or are inconsistent, including between separated parents or multiple care-givers

- Child put at significant risk due to parents' inability or unwillingness to impose appropriate boundaries.
- The parent/ carer is unable to judge dangerous situations and/or is unable to set appropriate boundaries and their child is frequently exposed to dangerous situations in the home and / or community.

# FAMILY & ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

## Level 1

## Level 2

## Level 3

## Level 4

### Family History & Family Well-being

- Parents/Carers able to provide care for child's needs and protect from danger in the home and elsewhere.

- Parents/Carers have relationship difficulties or there is conflict which may affect the child
- Parents/Carers request advice to manage their child's behaviour
- Sibling with significant problem (health, disability, behaviour)
- Suspicion of domestic abuse (this may or may not be evidenced by Child Concern Notifications or Operation Encompass alerts)
- Parental physical/mental health issues
- Parental low level substance misuse
- Family has limited support from wider family and/or friends
- Parent/carer experiencing low-level abuse from child
- Parental complicity in drug trafficking or serious violence

- Evidenced or disclosed incidents of domestic abuse (Child Concern Notifications /Operation Encompass alerts).
- Recent experience of serious loss or trauma.
- Parent has received custodial sentence; another person with parental responsibility (PR) or an alternative appropriate care-giver is available.
- Risk of family relationship breakdown leading to need for child to become looked after outside of family network; family members available to give appropriate care.
- Frequent parental conflict requiring intervention.
- Family requesting urgent support to manage behaviour inside or outside the home.
- Compromised parenting adversely affects the family (evidence of parental substance misuse, parental mental ill-health, domestic abuse which may include child to parent abuse. These are sometimes referred to as the 'toxic trio'). Parent is willing to accept support to address this.
- Child is a young carer (NB - all young carers are entitled to an 'assessment of need')

- High-level domestic abuse, parental substance misuse (alcohol or drugs) and/or parental mental ill-health; there is a direct risk identified to the child.
- Siblings' or other household members' drug or alcohol misuse is significantly adversely impacting on the child.
- Individual who poses a known risk to the child has access to the child, parents not protecting. This includes former partners who have re-instated contact.
- Adult mental health is significantly impacting on the care of the child. Any carer for the child presents as acutely mentally unwell and /or attempts significant self-harm and/or the child is the subject of parental delusions.
- The parent neglects to access ante natal care and is using drugs and alcohol excessively whilst pregnant.
- The parent neglects to access ante natal care where there are complicating obstetric factors that may pose a risk to the unborn child or newborn child.
- The parent/carer is suffering from severe post-natal depression which is causing serious risk to themselves and

# FAMILY & ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

- and to have identified needs met.)
- Family is isolated and has no support network, or is in conflict with wider family members.
- Parent/carer experiencing physical abuse from child.
- Early Help interventions to date has not made positive improvements

- their child(ren).
- A criminal record relating to sexual violence or serious crime is held by a family member and impacting the well-being of children in the household.
- Family members are being detained and at risk of deportation.
- The child is an unaccompanied asylum-seeker.

## Housing, Employment & Finance

- Parents/Carers provide secure and caring parenting and show warmth, praise and encouragement.

- Inadequate/poor/overcrowded housing - home conditions a cause for concern. This includes evidence of co-sleeping in cases that include overcrowding.
- Families affected by low income/debt/living with poverty affecting access to appropriate services to meet child's needs
- Family seeking asylum or refugees

- Significant financial difficulties / poverty impacting on ability to have basic needs met and limited access to funding.
- No recourse to public funds and/or community resources.
- Overcrowded or poor quality housing likely to impair health and/or development.
- Family at risk of eviction having already received support from Housing Services.
- Poor home conditions which require attention and monitoring (parent recognises the issue and wants to change).
- No basic amenities provided due to reasons other than poverty.
- Living independently as a teenage parent and needing additional support.

- The family's home is consistently in a state of disrepair and constitutes health and safety hazards.
- The family has no stable home, and is moving from place to place or 'sofa surfing'.
- The child consistently does not have adequate food, warmth, or essential clothing. The parents are consistently unable to budget effectively and resisting engagement.
- There is evidence that a child has been exposed or involved in criminal activity to generate income for the family (e.g. illegal employment, child labour, exploitation).



# FAMILY & ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

## Social & Community Resources

- Parents/Carers provide age and stage appropriate guidance and boundaries to help child develop appropriate values.
- Parents/carers support development through interaction and play or involvement in activity outside the home.

- Experiencing harassment/discrimination
- Socially or physically isolated
- Lack of a support network
- Insufficient facilities to meet social integration needs e.g. advice/support needed to access services for disabled child where parent is coping otherwise
- Child associating with peers who are involved in antisocial or criminal behaviour
- Family demonstrating low level anti-social behaviour towards others

- Child or family need immediate support and protection due to harassment/discrimination and have no supportive network.
- Family is isolated and has no support network, or is in conflict with neighbours or wider family members.
- Frequent anti-social behaviour requiring intervention (parents and/or children).
- Any level of involvement in gang activity / criminality / high-level anti-social behaviour.

- Forced marriage of a child/ young person under 18 years.
- Child affected by exclusion, isolated from support by family who resists attempts to achieve inclusion.

