

Universal

Services working to meet the child's basic needs.

No additional services are identified. Response services are Universal services. This level allows for temporary multi-agency involvement where it is anticipated that it will be brief and time limited.

- ✓ Early Help Assessment/Common Assessment Framework (CAF) not required
- ✓ Under the NHS Early Help framework, the Community and Universal levels apply.

Early Help Assessment/CAF

Targeted services (low risk) work alongside Universal services to meet a single additional need or several additional needs.

This is the threshold for beginning an Early Help/Common Assessment. Response services are Universal and/or Targeted.

- ✓ Early Help Assessment/CAF required
- ✓ Lead professional or allocated Early Help worker
- ✓ Team around the family
- ✓ Under NHS Early Help framework, the Universal Plus level applies.

Within Leicester, the eligibility criteria for an Early Help assessment are:

- ✓ A family has three or more needs that are likely to impact on outcomes for children and young people
- ✓ These needs are complex and are beyond the remit and capacity of a single agency response
- ✓ A co-ordinated multi-agency response is required working alongside Universal services.

Targeted

Targeted services (medium risk) work alongside Universal services to meet the complex and/or multiple needs of vulnerable children.

Long term intervention from statutory and/or specialist services is likely. There are high level unmet needs which require a targeted response, and may include a statutory service. This includes the threshold for a child in need (section 17) which requires Children Social Care intervention.

- ✓ Specialist assessment may be required
- ✓ Child in need (Section 17) assessment
- ✓ Panels under the Troubled Families Programme or multi-agency locality hubs with Supporting Families
- ✓ Under the NHS Early Help framework, the Community and/or Universal Plus levels apply
- ✓ Early Help services may be involved in support for the family as part of a step down approach or to meet a short term need.

Specialist

Specialist services (high risk) working alongside universal and targeted services to meet the complex and/or multiple needs of vulnerable children.

Specialist needs require statutory intensive support. This in particular includes the threshold for child protection (section 47) which requires Children's Social Care intervention.

- ✓ Statutory services
- ✓ Section 47/child protection/looked after
- ✓ Youth offending
- ✓ Under the NHS Early Help framework, the Universal Partnership Plus level applies.
- ✓ Early Help services may be involved in support for the family as part of a step down approach or to meet a short term need.

Assessing the needs of children, young people and families



Assessing the needs of children, young people and families is a critical part of the role of a professional within the children's workforce.

This guide aims to assist you to identify suitable and proportionate responses to situations encountered. Needs should be considered on a case by case basis.

Responses should be based on

- ✓ robust assessment
- ✓ sound professional judgement
- ✓ reference to the 'thresholds' framework document
- ✓ statutory guidance where appropriate.

Principles

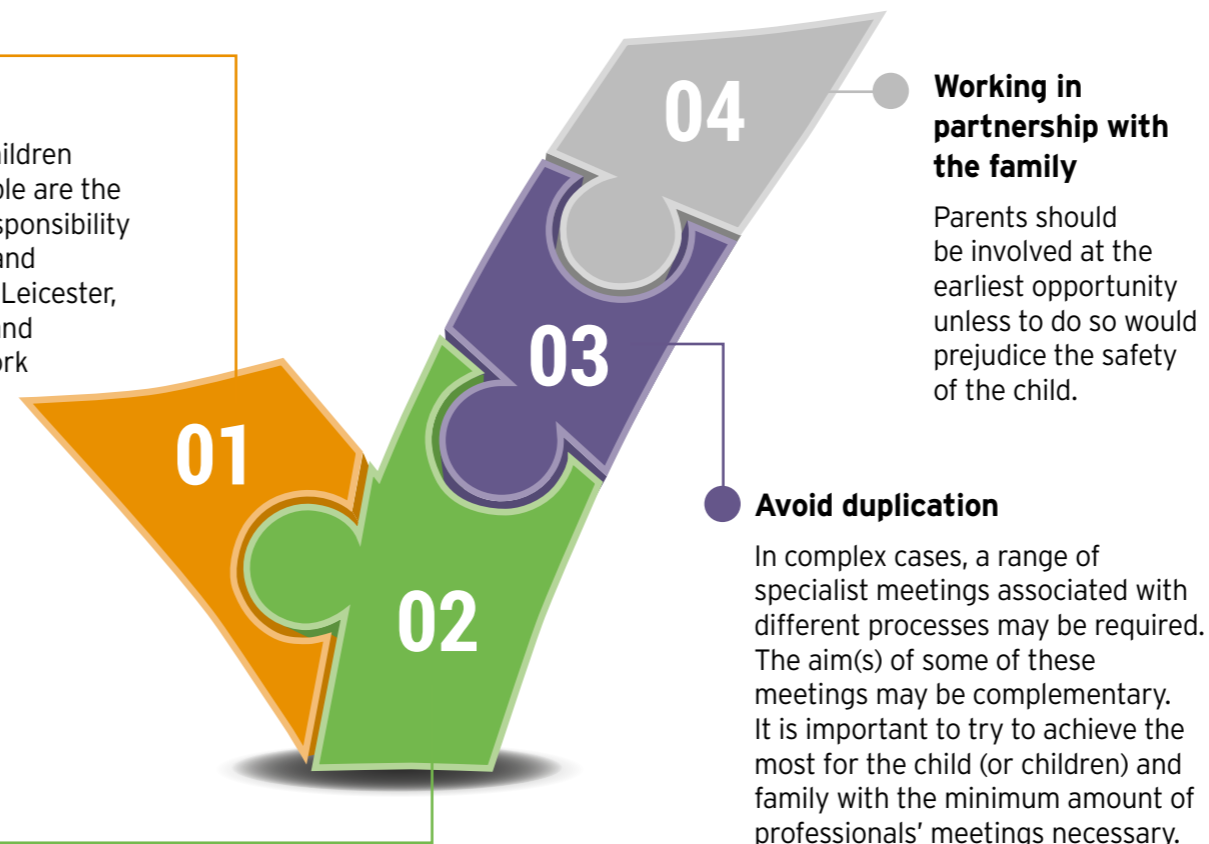
It's good to talk

Early identification of difficulties and improved outcomes for children and young people are aided by close collaboration between individual workers and agencies.

The needs of children and young people are the concern and responsibility of all agencies and practitioners in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland that work with children.

Proportionate intervention

Children's needs should be determined by a robust assessment which should inform the proportionate service response. This threshold document aims to help practitioners identify the right support for the right child at the right time.



Here to help you

The front line referral takers are

- ✓ **First Response for Leicestershire**
0116 305 0005
- ✓ **Children's Duty Worker for Rutland**
01572 758407
- ✓ **Children's Duty & Advice Team for Leicester City** 0116 454 1004

Where you have a problem that cannot be answered within your line management structure, call one of these services. They will discuss your concerns with you and may suggest a relevant course of action.

Leicestershire and Rutland
Safeguarding Children Board

www.lrsb.org.uk

Leicester Safeguarding
Children Board

www.lcitylscb.org