

1. Background

The threshold of need framework is a working tool to:

- Enable practitioners to identify the levels of risk and needs of children and their families
- To ensure that children and their families access the appropriate level of support according to their changing circumstances; across the four levels
- Provide a common understanding and language for multi-agency professionals
- Improve outcomes for children and their families in North East Lincolnshire

2. Levels of Need

- 1 – Universal.** Entitlement is for all children across threshold. Needs/risks are met by universal services
 - 2 – Targeted and Coordinated Early Help.** Additional single or multi-agency help for vulnerable children. Needs met through the Early Help Assessment and Plan
 - 3 – Child in Need (CIN).** Time limited intervention for children and young people in need or at risk of harm. A social worker is involved and it requires a multi-agency response
 - 4 – Specialist Assessment (immediate safeguarding).** Complex unmet needs. This is the threshold for Child Protection. Child may be 'in need', 'at risk of significant harm' or a 'Child Looked After' by the local authority. A multi-agency enquiry led by a social worker is needed to ensure children are protected and kept safe
- All support uses the Signs of Safety model of practice

6. Further Information

- Threshold of need and response 2019
- Threshold guidance 2019
- Prevention and Early Help Strategy
- Working Together 2018
- [Young People's Guide to Working Together 2018](#)
- [Young Person's Guide to Keeping Children Safe](#)
- [Safeguarding Children Partnership Procedures](#)



3. Levels of Need Indicators

- Helps create a common understanding and picture of the need for support
- Children can move up or down the levels depending on need. All children can access level 1, universal
- **If there is a risk of significant harm go straight to Level 4**
- Concerns at level 4 only don't require consent for referrals to be made or information

5. Worried about a child?

- Where needs are clear at level 2 (Targeted Early Help) agencies requesting support should complete a [contact form](#) and send to ehbusinesssupport@nelincs.gov.uk. You may be asked to complete an [Early Help Assessment](#) if multi-agency support is needed
- Where needs are at level 3 and above (Child in Need, Child Protection or Safeguarding) then agencies should complete an online [referral](#) to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) MASH@nelincs.gov.uk or call tel: 01472 326292 (option 2)
- **If a child is in immediate danger call 999**
- If in doubt consult with your safeguarding lead or the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH): e-mail MASH@nelincs.gov.uk

<https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/safeguarding-and-social-care/childrens-social-care/report-a-concern-about-a-child/>

4. What to do to keep children safe

- Consider life from the child's perspective
- Listen to and respond to what the child tells you
 - Think about the family's strengths that keep the child safe
- Think about what makes it difficult for the family to address the concerns
 - Consider any previous worries/concerns
- Practitioners supporting targeted early help can attend Collaborative, Support and Allocation Meetings (CSAM) in family hubs to reflect on the risks and plan a response if there is little progress to improve outcomes or non-engagement
- Always follow up your concerns if you are not satisfied that the child is safe.