



Understanding Thresholds

Vicki Lawson – Head of Safeguarding NELC

Sharon Humberstone – Specialist Nurse Safeguarding CCG

Darren Wildbore – Chief Superintendent Humberside Police



Aims of this Workshop



- Understanding local thresholds (levels of need) and how and when to take action to support and safeguard children and their families if the need arises
- Improve partnership understanding of thresholds
- To work towards a collective understanding from a range of different agency perspectives
- Open a dialogue about good practice and how together we can continue to develop and improve for the good of local children and families
- This workshop will focus on how and when to access services to improve outcomes for children and their families so as they are getting the right help at the right time



Temperature Check



- Do you use the thresholds of need in your day to day work?
- What is your current level of understanding of thresholds? (scale 0-10)
- Explain why?

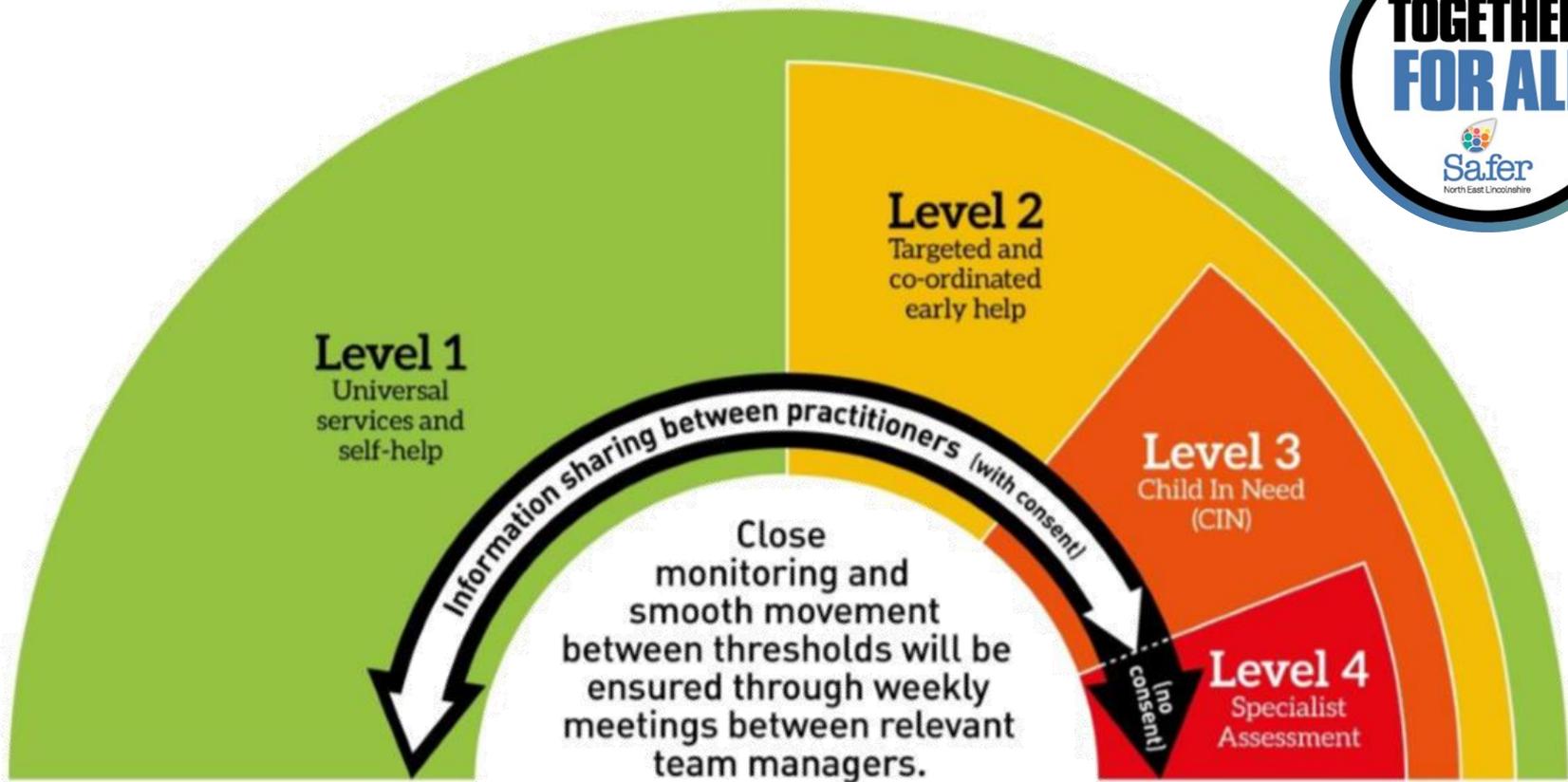


Levels of Need



- How we work together to support children and families
- Ensures we have a cohesive and consistent system
- Makes sure children don't fall between the gaps
- Supports professional judgement
- Keeps the child's needs as the focus





Go straight to **Level 4** as soon as risk of significant harm



Level 1 – Universal Services, Prevention and Self Help



What does Level 1 look like?

- Families know how and are able to seek out the information they need or can ask for support from services such as the GP and schools.
- Universal services are accessible whatever the level of concern to help children reach their full potential.
- Universal services help all children playing a key role throughout their childhood.
- Services are encouraged to help and support children and families with whom they have contact to resolve need at this level

What we mean:

- GP, Schools, Nurseries, Family Hubs, Health Visitors, Childminders, Midwives, Voluntary Sector, Housing Services, Police, Probation



Level 2 – Targeted and Co-ordinated Early Help



What does Level 2 look like?

- Early Help is about empowering families to come to their own solutions with a little extra help
- Early help is everyone's responsibility
- Where an agency feels they need support from other agencies a [contact form](#) can be used to request additional support. Where needs are not being met, an [Early Help Assessment and Plan](#) will coordinate the support, promote integrated working and family participation

What we mean:

- All the services involved in Level 1, with the addition of: Health Services, Early Intervention Policing teams, NSPCC, Families First Practitioners, Early Help Assessment, Family Network Meetings



Level 4 – Specialist Assessment (immediate safeguarding)



What does Level 4 look like?

- The threshold of significant harm triggering compulsory intervention in family life (no consent needed)
- When children are thought to have suffered or be at risk of significant harm, immediately refer concerns to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub at 01472 326292 (option 2) or MASH@nelincs.gov.uk. A multi-agency enquiry led by a social worker is needed to ensure children are protected and kept safe. **If a child is in immediate danger call 999**

What we mean:

- All the services involved in Levels 1, 2 and 3, with the addition of: At immediate risk of physical, sexual, emotional harm or neglect, Strategy meetings, Core Group Meetings, Child Protection Conference, Legal intervention, Section 47 of the Children's Act, Multi-agency involvement



Scenario – What would you do?



- Meet Billy age 6
- Low school attendance 71%
- Clothes are ill fitting and he is hungry sometimes
- Only child who lives with Dad, talks of visiting Mum at the weekends
- Presents as sad and struggles to concentrate
- Quiet in class and struggles to make friends at school
- Sporadic attendance at speech and language therapy
- Seen hanging around with older youths by PCSO on a few occasions



Temperature Check



- Are you any wiser about levels of need?
- What is your level of understanding of thresholds now? (scale 0-10)
- Explain why?





Where to find more information:

<http://www.safernel.co.uk/NELsafeguarding-children-partnership>





Any Questions?

