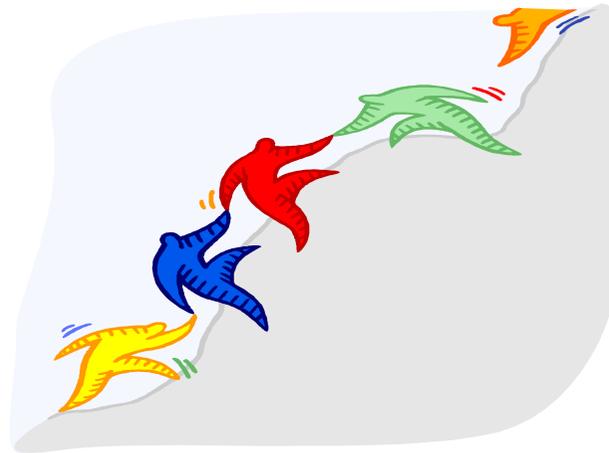
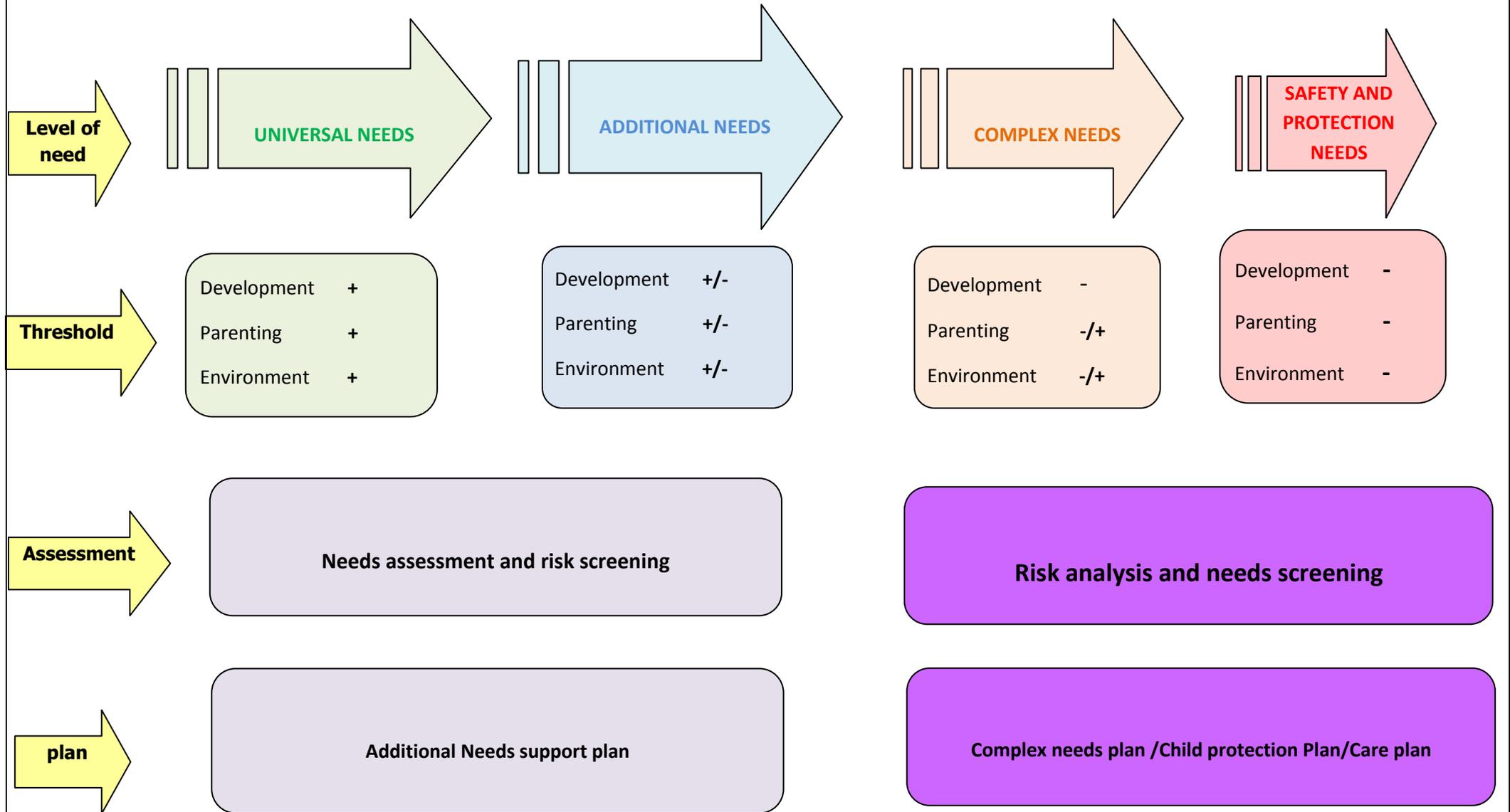


THE ISLE OF MAN INTEGRATED CONTINUUM OF NEED

**GUIDANCE ON THRESHOLDS
AND INTERVENTION TO HELP REMOVE
BARRIERS TO INTEGRATED SERVICE DELIVERY**



The Isle of Man Integrated Continuum of Need Assessment and Risk Analysis



Continuum of Need and Thresholds Guidance

Introduction

The recent Children's Services inspection confirmed the need for a shift in focus of services from crisis intervention through a statutory mechanism to one of early intervention and prevention, which supports better long term outcomes for children and young people.

A key principle to this approach is that all professionals working with children, young people and their families accept responsibility for ensuring that everything possible is done to prevent any unnecessary escalation of issues and difficulties for children and young people, and the focus is maintained on outcomes and not services.

Such an approach requires a conceptual framework which enhances [but does not substitute] professional judgement , and enables agencies, organisations and projects to:

- Work better together
- Share information more easily and appropriately
- And, facilitates referrals between different levels of need.

It benefits children, young people and their families by enabling them to understand what information agencies are seeking, why they want it, and helps them judge whether they are getting the services they require.

This section provides definitions and guidance that explains the concepts of:

- A continuum of need
- The threshold criteria operating at each level of need
- The lead agency and professional response required at each level.

When there is an immediate need to protect a child because they are being harmed or there is "reasonable cause" to believe they are at risk of harm then the professional must refer the concerns in accordance with the Protecting Children Board [PCB] procedures to The Department of Social Care or the Police.

The continuum of need

The continuum of need recognises that the needs of children, young people and their families are dynamic and can increase or decrease at any given time, and so any assessment of need will be reflective of a given point in time and can change. The continuum of need on the Isle of Man has four levels:

LEVEL 1	Universal Needs	All children have an entitlement to universal support which enhances and maintains their good health, education and well being. Features at this level demonstrate there is no deficit in the resilience factors of the child's development, the parenting provided or the environment in which they live. Common life events [parental separation/sibling rivalry/loss and bereavement] are seen as part of normal life, are generally short lived and can be coped with. The child and young person's needs are met through engagement with universal services for advice and support. Outcome: Families are well informed and children and young people have access to universal service provision.
Descriptors	Development+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children and young people are reaching their developmental and health milestones; engages in age appropriate interests and activities and can manage everyday emotional and relationship difficulties.
	Parenting +	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents/carers are able to provide secure, stable and caring home environment for the child and seeks and uses appropriate advice.
	Environment +	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family and friend relationships are supportive, parents manage income well and the family is accepted within the community.

LEVEL 2	Additional Needs	<p>Some children and young people are identified with additional needs that requires some targeted support and intervention to prevent any deficit in their health, education and well being. Features at this level may demonstrate a low level, short term or potential deficit in the resilience factors of the child's development, the parenting provided or the environment in which they live. [The child may have an identified or emerging disability or learning need or, may be a young carer]. Parents may need additional advice or support in response to an emerging need of the child or, themselves have low resilience due to their own needs, or the environment in which they live. The child and young person's needs are met through the voluntary provision of services co-ordinated through a key worker usually from within a universal or a targeted service.</p> <p>Outcome: Families have easy access to advice and support and children and young people have their additional needs identified and responded to in a timely and effective manner.</p>
Descriptors	Development +/-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diagnosed disability or suspected learning need which impacts on development. • Occasional truanting, poor punctuality and does not access support to overcome barriers to learning. • Low level conduct, behavioural or emotional difficulties. • Lack of age appropriate behaviour that increase vulnerability. • Young carer for parent or sibling or a well supported teenage parent.
	Parenting +/-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vulnerable adult or diagnosed mental health or physical need that supported by services meets needs of the child. • Parental use of alcohol/drugs but engaged in support services and minimal impact on child's development. • Parents are engaged but have reduced interest in responding to any concerns about the child. • Parental relationship difficulties – acrimony and suspicion of domestic abuse. • Inconsistent parenting but child's development not impaired.
	Environment +/-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low income or unemployment is impacting on financial management with debt issues emerging. • Associating with peers with anti-social criminal activity • Instability of housing – regular moves • Some social exclusion

LEVEL 3	Complex Needs	<p>A few children will have significant additional needs that are unmet and, there is a measurable deficit in their health, education and wellbeing. Features at this level will demonstrate a deficit in the resilience factors of the child's development, compromised parenting and a vulnerable environment, resulting in a complex range of needs. This level will include circumstances where current or previous interventions have not achieved the outcomes required, and will include children stepping down from level 4 intervention [CP plan/re-unification from care]. The child and young person's needs are met through the voluntary provision of services co-ordinated through a key worker usually from within a specialist service such as a targeted Health project, Youth Justice or social care.</p> <p>Outcome: Families have access to specialist advice and support for the complex range of needs identified and assessed and children and young people have their needs met effectively at the most appropriate specialist level.</p>
Descriptors	Development -	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical disability, complex health need with access to support frustrated or impaired by family functioning. • Regular/escalating frequent use of alcohol or drugs combined with risk factors such as going missing, exploitation, offending. • Mental health issues requiring specialist intervention in the community. • Missed appointments routine and non routine with evidence of impact on development of child. • Under 16 pregnant or young parent, unsupported and with additional risk factors. • Developmental delay and disengagement of parents from support. • Offending behaviour placing at risk of caution, prosecution etc. • Young person is potentially homeless.
	Parenting -/+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parental learning disability, mental health, substance misuse [including PND] with or without support impacts on the parents ability to meet the needs of the child. • Parental non-compliance with voluntary support at targeted level. • Physical care or supervision is inconsistent and regularly inadequate. • Parent unable to provide emotional guidance and boundaries leading to child being out of control.
	Environment -/+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History of/ongoing domestic abuse • Child has previously been looked after/ subject of a CP plan • Child is privately fostered • Child has indifferent attachments. • Family are socially excluded and require support as a result of this. • Family are homeless.

LEVEL 4	Safety/ Protection Needs	<p>A small number of children and young people will have needs that are enduring, complex and intense and the measurable deficit in their health, education and well being places them at risk of harm or abuse. Some will require a crisis response and/or a statutory response – either removal to CIC, legal intervention, child protection or safeguarding support or a specialist health or youth justice response. Features at this level will demonstrate a measurable deficit in the resilience factors of the child’s development placing them at risk, a deficit in the parenting and/or environment which compounds the risk.[significant harm, a child beyond parental control, a child who is neglected or abandoned, or a child with a significant mental health difficulty]. The child and young persons needs are met through a statutory response co-ordinated by either a specialist health/youth justice or, social care worker.</p> <p>Outcome: families have access to statutory intervention and support and children and young people at risk are protected in a timely and effective way.</p>
Descriptors	Development -	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to thrive and neglect • Physical/sexual Abuse and risk indicators of potential abuse • Severe mental health conditions – suicide/psychosis/anorexia etc • Under 13 engaged in sexual activity • Offending behaviour resulting in sentence in the community or in custody • High level disability requiring care away from home. • Sexual exploitation • Sexually harmful behaviour to others • At risk as a result of substance use/self harm/behaviour placing self at risk • Child is beyond control of parent and putting self and/or others at risk.
	Parenting -	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult/parent posing a risk to children within the home or in contact with the home. • Parent/carer rejects or abandons child • Parental substance use significantly impairs parenting or health of unborn child. • Parent is subject to MAPPAs. • Family crisis likely to result in breakdown of care of child/young person. • Parent has a history of abuse and neglect of children.
	Environment -	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serious or repeated domestic abuse • Suspicion of child abuse. • Extreme poverty/homelessness • Child or family need immediate support due to harassment or discrimination.

