

# **THRESHOLD AND ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR CHILDREN'S DISABILITY TEAMS (SOCIAL CARE)**

**AMENDED April 2010**

## Responding to Levels of Need

## Wiltshire, Department for Children & Education – Threshold Matrix & Assessment of Need Categories

**1** Children, including children with disabilities, at this level may have one or two low level needs, which can be met by one agency or referral to one other agency.

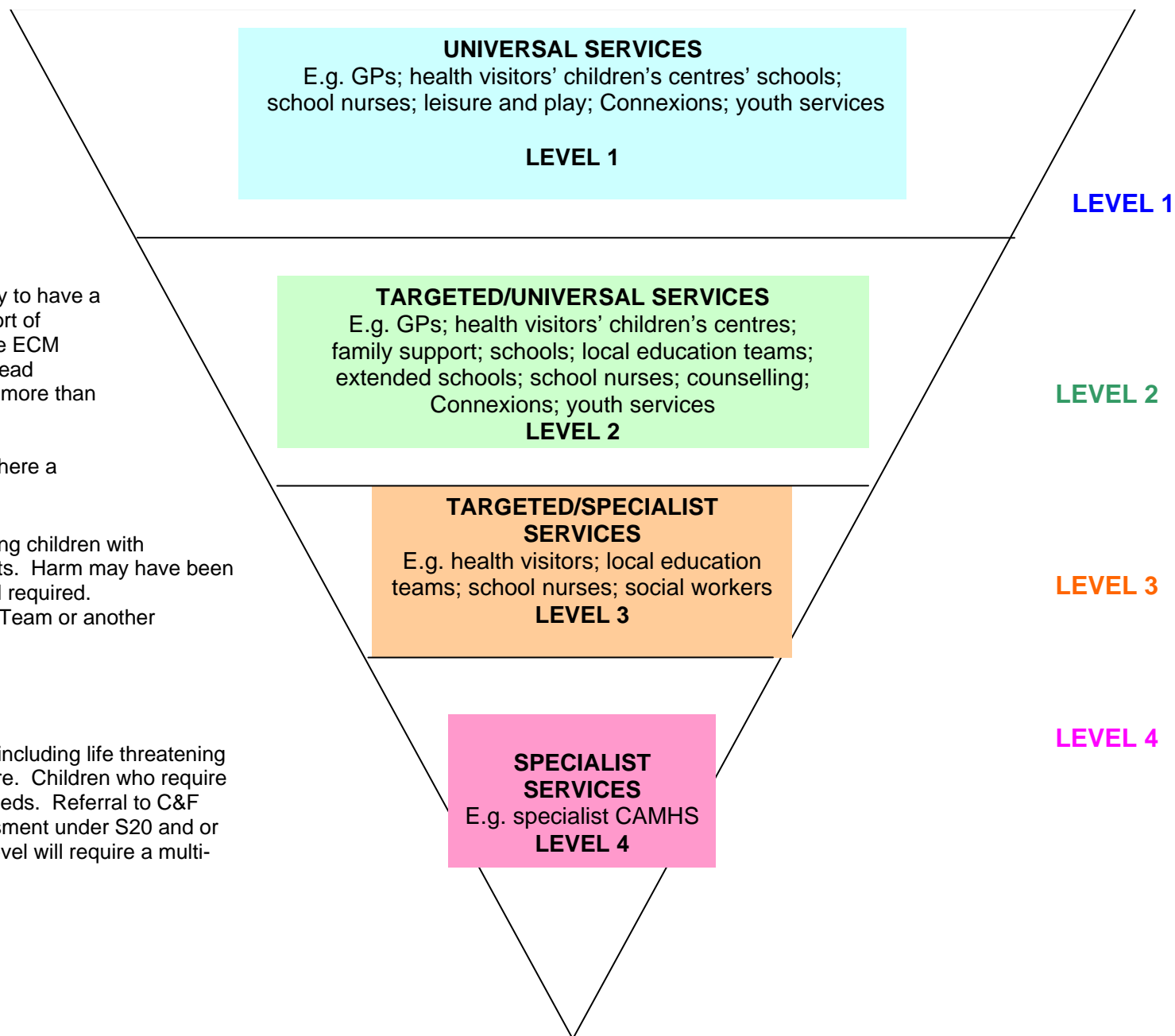
Lead Professional not required.

**2** Children, including children with disabilities, likely to have a number of additional needs and, without the support of additional services will not meet one or more of the ECM outcomes. These children are likely to require a Lead Professional and co-ordinated support services of more than one agency.

CAF needed to support discussion at a meeting where a Lead Professional will be identified.

**3** Children with high level additional needs, including children with disabilities, with complex and profound impairments. Harm may have been averted or risks managed, specialist support is still required. Referral to C&F Social Care or Children Disability Team or another specialist service.

**4** Children with complex health needs/disabilities, including life threatening needs, where parents/carers unable to provide care. Children who require protective services and who have safeguarding needs. Referral to C&F Social Care or Children Disability Team for assessment under S20 and or S47 Children Act 1989. Needs assessed at this level will require a multi-agency Core Assessment.



In Wiltshire services for children and young people with a disability are being developed within the context of the Children Act 1989 (2004), the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (2005), Carers Equal Opportunities Act 2004, the Carers and Disabled Children Act (2000), Every Child Matters and the Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families. The basis of this approach is that children with a disability are regarded as children first and, as children with impairment, second.

Children with a disability are therefore not classified by assessment, according to their physical or mental impairment, but assessed according to the impact any impairment has on their quality of life and that of their family.

The majority of children in Wiltshire who require services will receive them through universal provision within their local community. The same should be true of any child with a disability. Only when it has been identified, via the Common Assessment that the impact of the child's impairment on their life is too great to be addressed by universal provision, should a referral for an assessment be made to the Children's Disability Teams.

*Some children with a disability may be assessed as needing specialist services other than social care, for example a child who needs support from speech and language and paediatric therapy. These children should also be assessed, via the Common Assessment, which will enable the identification of unmet needs, before being referred to the CDTs.*

The eligibility criteria for the Children with a Disability Teams (Social Care) are:

- 1 Children and their families whose main need for services arises out of the children's disabilities or intrinsic condition  
And
- 2 These conditions have a substantial or critical impact on the quality of the child/young persons or/and their families lives;  
And
- 3 The needs cannot be met by Universal/Targeted services alone.

Social care and key partner agencies are required to maintain, where possible and appropriate, the child/young person safely within their family and community.

The chart on page 2 will help practitioners determine the threshold levels for social work services for the Children with a Disability Service.

## ILLUSTRATIVE NEED

This document is designed to provide a better understanding of set eligibility criteria for accessing a service from the *Children with Disabilities Team* (CDT). It aims to explain the way in which the differing needs of children and young people with disabilities can be met, so that they may achieve the 'five outcomes of Every Child Matters (ECM); Be Healthy, Stay Safe, Enjoy & Achieve, Make a Positive Contribution & Achieve Economic Wellbeing.

### **LEVEL 1 - UNIVERSAL NEEDS - All Children & Young People**

#### **Service Examples**

- School
- GP
- Health Visitor
- School nurse
- Children's centre
- Before and after school care
- Family Information Service at ask
- Extended Services

## **LEVEL 2 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE NEEDING ADDITIONAL HELP OF TARGETED SERVICES**

These children and young people are likely to have a number of **ADDITIONAL NEEDS**. They will have been identified as being a child or young person who, without the support of additional services, will not meet one or more of the ECM outcomes. The response may come from a single service provider, consulting with or referring on to other service providers when required. A Common Assessment Framework \* (CAF) may need to be completed if the child or young person has additional needs which are not being met.

### **2.1 Illustrative Need**

- Occasionally requires more supervision than children of the same age
- Limited perception of danger to self and others.
- With supervision can engage in personal care
- Some behavioural or management difficulties which may require additional advice or guidance
- General health problems
- Speech and language problems
- Meets access criteria for the Local Offer

#### **Service Examples**

Aiming High for Disabled Children Short breaks/Local Offer

Speech & language therapy

Community Child Health Service

Primary Behaviour Support Service

Statement of Educational Need

School Action or School Action plus

Early Bird

Opportunity Group

Parenting Support

Connexions (Special Needs)

Connexions Intensive Parents Support advisors

**\*For additional information about the CAF process please ask your Early Years Provider or School**

### **LEVEL 3**

To meet the needs of disabled children, young people and their families, we have to be as fair and as consistent as we can in assessing and allocating services. Therefore our judgements and decisions are based on the assessment and take particular account of the following

1. The impact that caring for a disabled child or young person is having on the family as a whole.
2. The possibility that the child or young person may require an alternative care arrangement or that there may be concerns as to the child's safety and/or welfare.

Key Factor in determining Needs at level 3 are:-

1. The impact that trying to meet the additional needs of a disabled child or young person is having on the family as a whole.
2. Likelihood of family breakdown resulting from the demands of the care, supervision, or behaviour of the child/young person.
3. The effect of disturbed nights on the carer and their family.
4. Impact of Moving & Handling has on the wellbeing of the carer
5. Health of the carer.
6. Number of children in the household their ages and needs.
7. Children with disabilities who have severe challenging behaviours which impact on all aspects of the child/young persons functioning or pose a risk to self or others.
8. It is apparent that the families own resources and/ or Universal and Targeted services are unable to provide the required level of support.
9. Children with disabilities who have recently been subject to a child protection plan, and who remain in need of ongoing specialist services.
10. Children/young people with disabilities who require support because of their mental health needs, e.g. Healthy Minds

**Needs at level 3 will require an Initial or Core Assessment or assessment by another specialist service.**

## **LEVEL 4**

### **4      REQUIRING LOCAL AUTHORITY CARE. Family breakdown resulting from the additional demands of the care and supervision of the child/young person.**

#### **4.1    Illustrative Need**

- No one is available or able to meet the child or young persons basic needs
- Families who require intensive multi agency support in caring for children with disabilities and/or health needs, or life limiting conditions.
- Children/young people with disabilities who require a specialist input because of mental health needs, e.g. CAMHS

#### **4.2 CHILDREN IN NEED OF SAFEGUARDINGCHILDREN ( Referral & Assessment Team)**

##### **Illustrative Need**

- Children suffering or likely to suffer significant harm.

**Needs at level 4 will require a Core Assessment**

### **OT SERVICE**

Concerned with safety, preventative and independence issues – ensuring children with a disability live in a safe physical environment and are cared for safely; that their carers' health is safeguarded and that the children and young people have the maximum opportunities to become as independent as possible within their home and outside environments.

Threshold criteria differ, as OTs work across all social care teams and often see children who are at level 2. It should be noted that a child or young person who continues to receive an OT services will be reviewed by an OT on a regular basis

### **TRANSITION TO ADULT SERVICE**

Most young people with a disability will receive transitions support through the Connexions Service. Some disabled young people who do not have level 3 or 4 needs but are identified as probably needing post 18 support through Adult Social Care will be referred by the Connexions Service to the Transition Panel and may be allocated to a social worker in the Children with Disabilities Team.