

## Thresholds for access to services for children and families in Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland

### Introduction

Leicester City, Leicestershire and Rutland are introducing a new Thresholds Document designed to give clear guidance to those agencies and individuals who make referrals to Children's Social Care.

Promoting children's welfare is most effective when they receive help early and at a level according to their needs. The aim of the updated Thresholds document is to provide early interventions for children, young people and families that require support to prevent them moving towards higher levels of need, and to reduce the levels of need once these have been identified.

It is designed to help identify when a threshold or trigger has been reached, indicating when a child or family might need safeguarding and protection and then to identify where best to get this support from.

This guidance is for practitioners in all agencies who have direct or indirect contact with children, young people and their families in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

Using the guidance will help practitioners and managers to identify the support that a child, young person or family might need and how best this support can be provided.

### Different types of assessed need and levels of intervention

In the guidance there are four levels or 'Tiers' of need:

#### **Tier 1 – Requiring universal services – children with no additional need (UNIVERSAL)**

Children and young people who are achieving expected outcomes and have their needs met within universal mainstream service provision without any additional support.

#### **Tier 2 – Requiring early intervention – children with some additional needs (ADDITIONAL)**

Children and young people where some worries are emerging and who will require additional support usually from professionals already involved with them i.e. schools, health visiting services, children's centres etc and may also require an Early Help Assessment.

#### **Tier 3 – Requiring targeted early help support – children with multiple needs becoming more complex (TARGETED)**

Children and young people where there are significant worries over an extended period or where worries recur frequently which would benefit from a coordinated multi-agency team around the family approach, and which will be supported by an Early Help Assessment.

#### **Tier 4 – Requiring acute/statutory intervention – children with complex and or acute needs (SPECIALIST)**

Children and young people who present with acute needs / are very vulnerable and where interventions are required to respond to risk of abuse or neglect. They will require a response from specialist service such as Children's Social Care, Community Mental Health Services, Youth Offending Services.

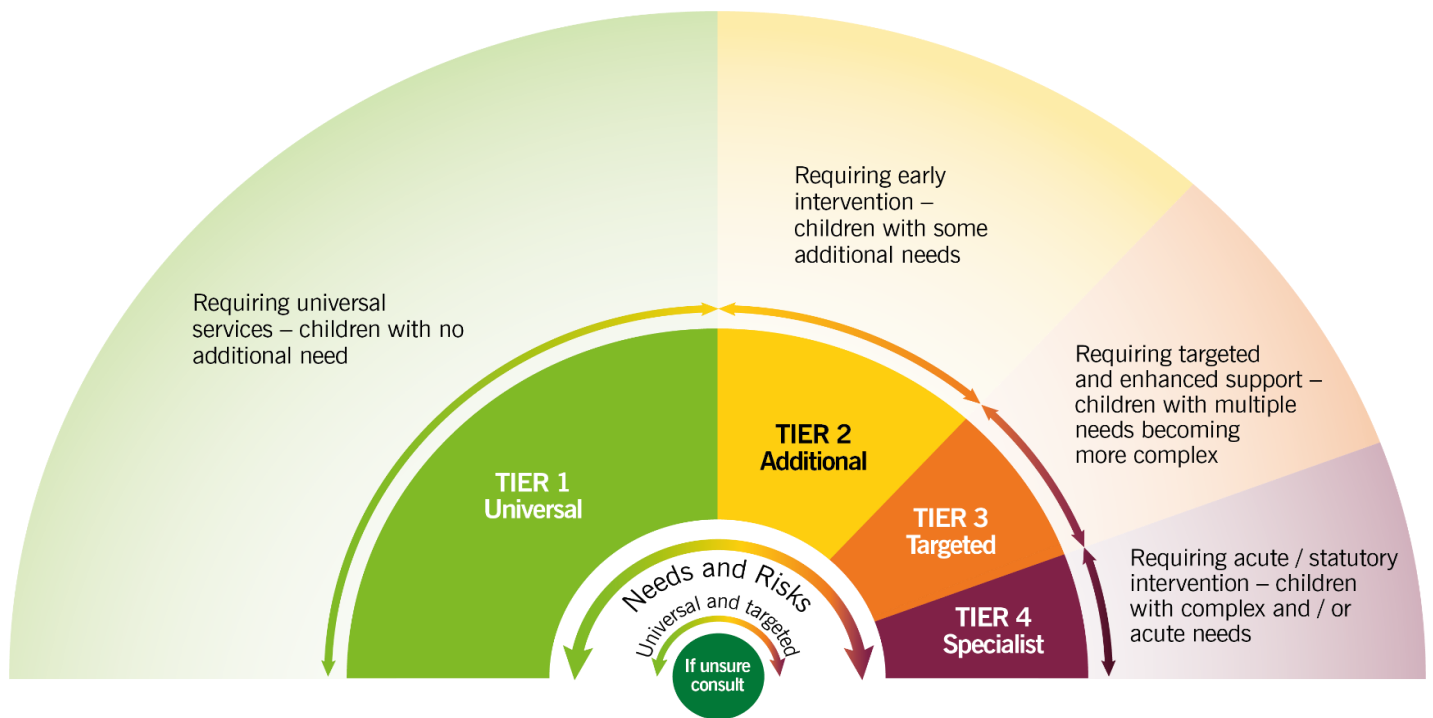
When there is reason to suspect that a child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm, referral must be made following Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland's Safeguarding Children Procedures.

The document is intended to offer guidance about the type of need which would trigger service. However, there will be circumstances in which children's needs will cross tiers and for which practitioners will need to seek advice and guidance to ensure service provision is having an impact. The tiers represent the types of agencies involved. However, within Tier 3, a specialist agency such as CAMHS could be the lead professional for an Early Help

Assessment where there are no safeguarding issues. Within Tier 4, a range of early help services may be supporting families as part of a specialist intervention.

Practitioners should refer to safeguarding procedures and seek advice and guidance from their line managers and safeguarding leads for assistance in complex situations and can seek advice from social care managers when this is required.

The tiers of need are demonstrated in a graphic showing the different types of assessed need and levels of intervention



The document also has supporting 'descriptors' demonstrating the four tiers divided into:

- Child factors
- Parenting factors
- Family and Environmental factors

Each set of factors have examples of the types of issues a worker may encounter when considering a case.

For example:

	<b>Requiring early intervention – children with some additional needs (ADDITIONAL)</b>
Child Factors	Developmental delay Health problems / disability which can be maintained in a mainstream school Low level mental or emotional issues requiring intervention Challenging behaviour that parents find difficult to manage

The document is available online [here](#)

## **Helpful Resources and links.**

### **Leicester-specific information**

Early Help offer: [here](#)

### **Leicestershire-specific information**

Early Help offer: [here](#)

### **Rutland-specific information**

Early Help offer: [here](#)

If at any point during the Early Help Assessment process risk of harm is identified or the plan is having no impact to improve outcomes for the child(ren), consideration should be given to making a referral to Children's Social Care. If professionals suspect that the child or young person is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm then a telephone referral should be made without delay to the appropriate Children's Social Care Duty Service using the local procedure. Some authorities refer to these as 'front door' or 'access point'.

Multi-Agency Referral Form (MARF) links:

Leicester City MARF: [here](#)

Leicestershire & Rutland MARF: [here](#)