3. Continuum of Need and Response

Increasing independence for children, young people and families

CONTINUUM OF NEED

1. Universal

2. Universal Plus

3. Targeted Formal

4. Serious Complex Needs

Early Help Assessment

Specialist Children's Assessment

The right help at the right time

Continuum

- Level 1 - Universal; Children and young people making good overall progress in all areas of their development, receiving appropriate universal services such as health and education.

- Level 2 - Universal plus; Children, young people and families are experiencing emerging problems, whose needs require some targeted support. They are likely to require early help / intervention for a limited period, to help them move back to Universal (level 1) and reduce the likelihood of being stepped up to Targeted Formal (level 3) and Serious Complex Needs (level 4).

- Level 3 - Targeted formal; Children, young people and families with identified vulnerabilities who are experiencing significant additional complex needs and are likely to require a more targeted, multi-agency coordinated approach. They are likely to require longer term intervention to help them move to Universal Plus (level 2) or Universal (level 1) services.

- Level 4 - Serious complex needs; Children, young people and families who are experiencing very serious or complex needs that are having a major impact on their expected outcomes or there is serious concern for their safety. These acute needs may require statutory intensive support for children and young people to be protected. Children, young people and families receiving intervention for level 4 need are helped, where possible, in reducing the seriousness and complexity of need and are stepped down.