

Identifying Levels of Need and what to do next

The Lewisham Continuum of Need document is a guide to assessing and meeting the needs of children and their families. It is not a 'tick list' and is to be used as an aid to assist professional judgement and decision making. It is important that assessments of need are based on a big picture view of the child and her/his circumstances.

Notwithstanding this any concerns about a child having been seriously harmed or being at risk of serious harm must be relayed immediately by telephone to the Lewisham Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 020 8314 6660.

Please ensure that you refer to the Continuum of Need Document to assist you with identifying levels of need.		
Level of Need Identified	Early Help Assessment Required?	Referral/Action/Support
Level 1 Universal	No assessment required	Child, young person or family accesses relevant universal services for advice/support such as GP, school, dentist, children's centre
Level 2 Universal+	<p>If a single clear issue or area of need identified – Early Help Assessment (EHA) may not be necessary.</p> <p>If a number of issues or needs at Level 2 are identified, an EHA must be undertaken</p>	<p>Offer support yourself, work with a professional partner or direct to relevant universal or early help support service for additional support</p> <p>Contact the Early Help Support Service if advice is required: Based on results of Early Help Assessment – access appropriate early help service/s.</p>
Level 3 Targeted Response	<p>If an Early Help Assessment has already been done, new information should be sent to the services already involved, to update the EHA.</p> <p>If not already done, EHA should be undertaken and recommendations made for services required to meet assessed levels of need should start to populate a Plan.</p>	<p>Appropriate support can be accessed by the Lead Professional and TAF.</p> <p>Request for a Targeted Family Support offer from the Early Help Panel which may include the commissioned Family Support Service can be made using the "Help and Support" section of the</p>



		following a consultation with the Early Help Team 020 8314 6660.
Level 4 Specialist/Statutory	Likely that an EHA has been done but if not the EHA process should not be used at this point and referral should not be delayed.	Immediate referral should be made to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) using the single request form www.lewisham.gov.uk/MASH .
Safeguarding What to do if you are concerned about the safety of a child or young person: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a child is in immediate danger you should contact the police on 999 and/or an ambulance. • If there is no immediate danger or you need advice or information please contact the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH): 020 8314 6660 		

