

Safeguarding 7-minute briefing: MARU and Thresholds of Need

Further information

If you have concerns about a child or young person who is already known to Social Care (an 'open case'), you should refer to the relevant social worker in the first instance.
Always speak to your DSL and report following school systems if you ever have a concern about a child, young person or family.

Referrals continued...

You will be able to talk to a social worker who can advise whether:

- The concern is high and meets the threshold for the completion of a referral form. The form to complete can be found [here](#)
- The concern does not meet the threshold for a MARU referral but will be signposted to the Early Help Hub (EHH) to identify appropriate support routes for the family, with consent.
- The concern does not meet the threshold indicating further action is required at this stage; however, should you have further concerns you should always ask for advice again.

Referrals to MARU – Multi Agency Referral Unit

The safety of the child/children is paramount. Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility. If you have concerns about the safety of a child or young person, it is appropriate for you to contact the MARU advice line on 0300 123 1116. Initially speak to your DSL if you can.

Background

The thresholds or continuum of need have arisen out of the need for a common language and common framework which allows professionals to make decisions about a child's wellbeing with confidence. They also allow us to measure the progress of a child/family through the appropriate support being offered.



Threshold Document:

Continuum of Help and Support

There are Four Levels of Support:

- Level 1: Children with no additional needs
- Level 2: Children with additional needs showing early signs of vulnerability
- Level 3: Children in need who require statutory or specialist services
- Level 4: Children who are suffering or likely to suffer significant harm.

Services Involved at each Level – 1&2

- Level 1: Universal services - Education, Health visitors, school nursing, GP, Police, Housing, Youth services...
- Level 2: Early help services - Health, education and children's centres, Educational psychology, educational welfare, specialist play, family, parenting programmes, youth crime prevention, drugs and alcohol...

Services Involved at each Level – 3&4

- Level 3: Longer term intervention from statutory and specialist services - Children's Social Care, CAMHS, Statutory SE, health or disability services, Youth Justice, Targeted drug and alcohol...
- Level 4: Threshold for multi-agency child protection enquiries led by social services following strategy discussion – social care, specialist health or disability, youth justice, CAMHS, family support, sexual exploitation, drug and alcohol...

[Click here for quiz](#)