

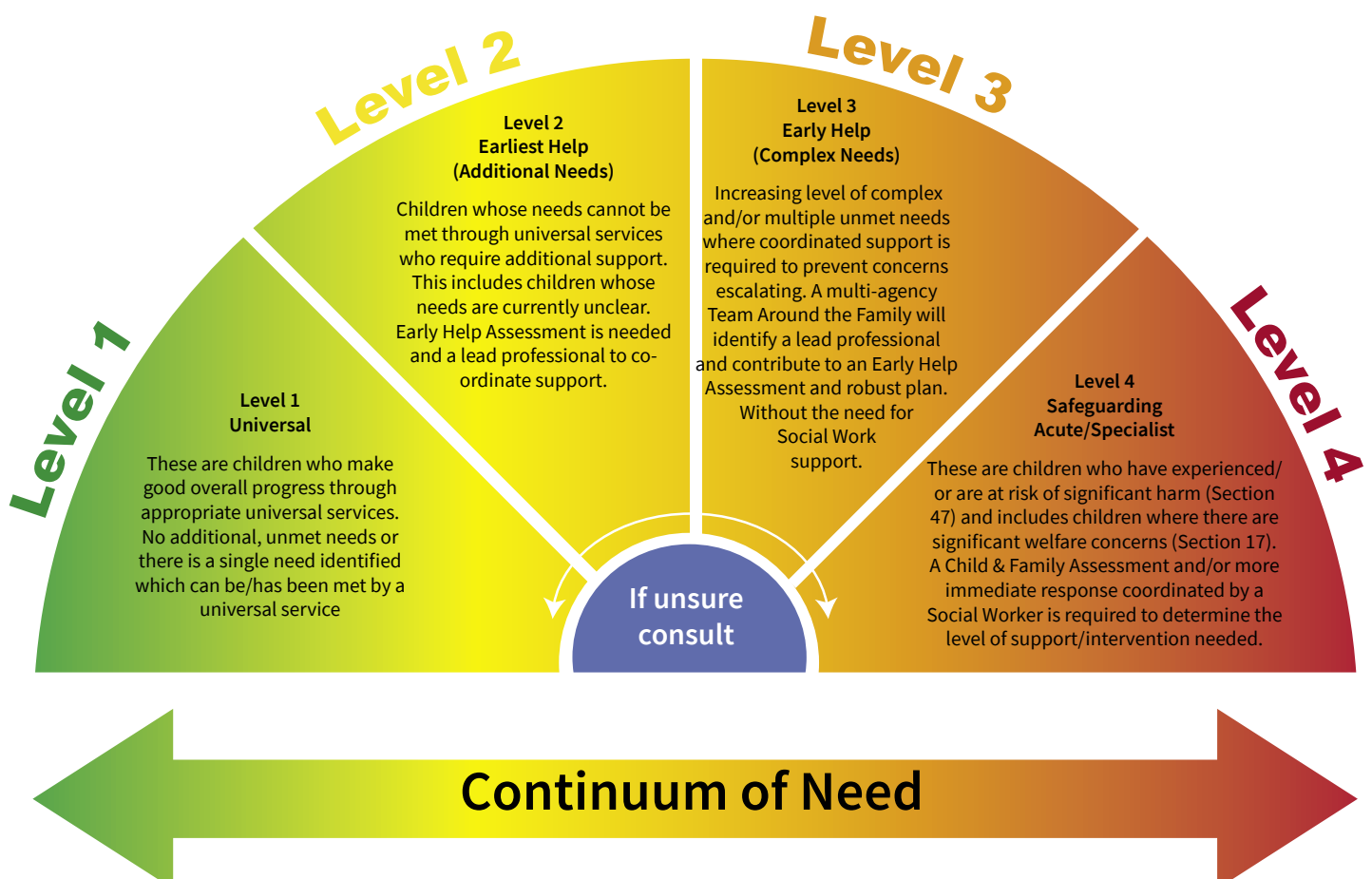
A Quick Guide to Wigan's Safeguarding Partnership Threshold of Need Framework

The threshold framework is intended as a multi-agency guide to ensuring children, young people and their families access the right support at the right time.

There are four levels that consider the different stages of need and types of intervention which are available for children, young people and their families. As children's and family's needs change responses will need to move up or down the levels accordingly.

This framework is illustrated in the diagram below:

The windscreen continuum of need and response



Level One – Universal

Most children will have their needs met through universal provision.

Level Two – Earliest Help (Additional Needs)

For some children and families, help is required to respond to a specific need that cannot be met solely through universal provision. This may include for example: specialist speech and language services, a specific health need, a temporary response to an event, ie bereavement, eviction/homelessness, school non-attendance etc. This is often a single agency response. We have introduced the term earliest help to aide people's understanding of support. An Early Help assessment and plan is needed to co-ordinate a SMART response for the child and family.

Level Three – Early Help (Complex Needs)

Some families have multiple needs and won't achieve positive outcomes without co-ordinated support from a number of agencies led by one professional. We should aim to build on existing trusted professional relationships to gain consent & engagement with the support being offered. Help can be achieved using a multi-agency 'Team Around the Family' (TAF) approach within the Early Help Framework. An Early Help assessment and plan is needed to co-ordinate a SMART response for the child and family. Families requiring support at this level may require specific support from Children's Services via Start Well.

Level Four – Safeguarding, Acute & Specialist

Some children, young people and their families will require more specialist social work support to ensure they can achieve their full potential. Without this help and support their health and development may be significantly impaired. This includes children who may have a disability. These are referred to as 'children in need'. For more information see S17 of the Children Act 1989, this gives a full definition of 'children in need'.

Some children will need social work support to protect them from significant harm. This can be to prevent harm or as a response when harm has already occurred. See S47 of the Children Act 1989 for a full definition of child protection.

A small number of children, young people will require statutory interventions from the Targeted Youth Support Service.

For advice on how to proceed with an Early Help, please ring the MAST on 01942 828520.

If you need to discuss a child concern, please seek advice from the MAST on 01942 828300
(between 8.45am and 5.00 pm Monday to Friday).