

The continuum of support for children and families

Children and young people may have additional or unmet needs at any age or stage of development (0 to 18 years); their circumstances or that of their parents / carers may have changed over a period or they may have an accumulation of different factors happening which increases a child or young person's vulnerability or unmet needs.

The continuum of need below demonstrates how family's needs are not static. Their level of need can increase in risk or complexity or improve through support and resilience; as practitioners working with families we must adjust our approach accordingly. We should maintain ongoing assessment of a family's needs through our delivery of help and support, ensuring our approach is proportionate, co-ordinated and focused on achieving positive outcomes for children, young people and their families.

Across this continuum, working with the family's network and facilitating family-led decision making is a consistent expectation, not limited to a particular point of need or intervention.

Green: Universal / Community Based Support (previously Level 2) – this is for children and families who need additional support

Amber: Family Help (previously Level 3) – this is targeted support and children in need

Red: Statutory Child Protection (previously Level 4) – this is for children at risk of significant harm, who need protection and/or care

