

If you have serious safeguarding concerns about a child or young person, contact the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 0345 155 1071 or email mashsecure@devon.gcsx.gov.uk.

Out of hours please call 0845 6000 388.



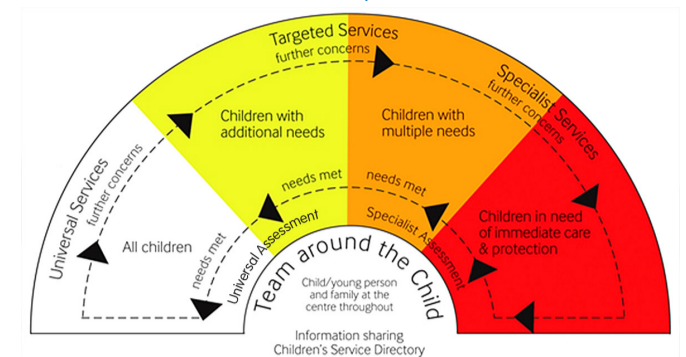
Devon Safeguarding Children Board



Police ■ Fire Service ■ Health ■ Devon County Council ■ Careers SW District Councils ■ Youth Offending Team ■ Probation ■ CAF/CASS Safer Communities ■ Community & Voluntary Sector ■ Education

Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility

Continuum of needs (commonly known as The Windscreen)



Approved by the Devon Safeguarding Children Board March 2014. Revised Sept 2016 2771/0415

# Threshold Tool

The matrix at the bottom of this tool should be used to record your observations. These can then be used to inform assessment, planning and future action

www.devonsafeguardingchildren.org

## Threshold of need and intervention criteria

Development of child or young person 1 - Health		Children & young people who need additional help	
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
<p>Child's needs are effectively met by the family</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physically well</li> <li>Adequate diet/hygiene/clothing/exercise/sleep</li> <li>Developmental checks/immunisations up-to-date</li> <li>Health appointments are kept</li> <li>Regular dental/optical care</li> <li>Registered with a GP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overweight/underweight</li> <li>Concerns re diet/hygiene/clothing/exercise/sleep</li> <li>Starting to miss health appointments</li> <li>Defaulting immunisation/checks</li> <li>Untreated and repeated minor health problems</li> <li>Not registered with GP/dentist Soiling/wetting self</li> <li>Substance misuse</li> <li>A &amp; E attendance giving cause for concern</li> <li>Sexually active</li> <li>Evidence of self-harm</li> <li>Frequent attendance at GP/Hospital with no established medical diagnosis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chronic health problems with a severe impact on every-day functioning</li> <li>Failure to access appropriate health care</li> <li>Persistent excessive alcohol consumption, smoking or other substance misuse</li> <li>Moderate/persistent mental health issues</li> <li>Pregnancy and STIs in young person under 16</li> <li>Multiple A &amp; E attendances causing concern with frequent unexplained minor injuries and/or delay in seeking medical attention</li> <li>Very poor hygiene/self care</li> <li>Evidence of persistent/significant self-harm</li> <li>Significant physical disability Serious developmental delay ADHD/Autistic spectrum diagnosed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Failure to thrive and child not meeting development milestones</li> <li>Suspected non-accidental injury/abuse/neglect</li> <li>Persistent drug use affecting immediate wellbeing</li> <li>Acute and serious mental or physical health needs or behavioural difficulties, including life-threatening self harm, suicide</li> <li>Children who are accessing acute health services including sexual health clinics which indicates significant harm</li> <li>Multiple terminations/pregnancies</li> <li>U 1 sexual activity/terminations</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physical and sensory development milestones are met</li> <li>Age appropriate involvement in physical activity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Slow in reaching developmental milestones</li> <li>Sensory developmental delay</li> <li>Possible autistic / ADHD spectrum</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Profound/severe and/or multiple disabilities with significant unmet need</li> <li>Unexplained injury in immobile baby</li> </ul>

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## Threshold of need and intervention criteria

Development of child or young person 1 - Health		Children & young people who need additional help	
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
<p>Age appropriate development re</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fluency of speech and confidence</li> <li>Willingness to communicate</li> <li>Verbal and non-verbal comprehension</li> <li>Language structure and vocabulary and articulation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reluctant communicator</li> <li>Not understanding age-appropriate instructions</li> <li>Confused by non-verbal communication</li> <li>Difficulty listening for an appropriate length of time</li> <li>Immature structure of expressive language/speech/sounds</li> <li>Frequent attendance at GP/Hospital with no established medical diagnosis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Severe disorder and impairment in understanding spoken language</li> <li>Communication difficulties have a severe impact on every-day life</li> <li>Requires alternative or augmented means of communication</li> <li>Frozen watchfulness</li> <li>Suspicion of Fabricated and Induced Illness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sexually inappropriate language/vocabulary for age</li> <li>Evidence of Fabricated and Induced Illness</li> </ul>
<p>Good quality early attachments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feelings and actions demonstrate appropriate responses</li> <li>Able to adapt to change</li> <li>Able to demonstrate empathy</li> <li>Involved in leisure and other social activity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Difficulties in relationships with peer group and/or with adults</li> <li>Over-friendly or withdrawn with strangers</li> <li>Finds coping with change difficult even with support</li> <li>Difficulties expressing empathy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disordered attachments that have a severe impact</li> <li>Association with substance misusing/serious risk taking peers including child sexual exploitation offline/online</li> <li>Reaction to change triggers prolonged inability to cope</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Endangers own life through self harm/substance misuse/eating disorder/extreme risk taking behaviour</li> </ul>

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## Threshold of need and intervention criteria

Development of child or young person 2 - Wellbeing		Children & young people who need additional help	
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
<p>Positive use of the internet</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Impulsive/lacks self-control</li> <li>Child causing concerns over use of internet and/or social media</li> <li>Concerns about possible bullying/cyberbullying</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Phobias and other psychological difficulties at a clinically significant level</li> <li>Accessing potentially harmful internet sites</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Involved in child sexual exploitation or trafficking as perpetrator and/or victim</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appropriate self-control</li> <li>Appropriate social behaviour</li> <li>Appropriate sexual development and activity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disruptive/challenging behaviour, including in school or early years setting</li> <li>Concerns about sexual development and behaviour Child suspected of having inappropriate relationship with adult or peers</li> <li>Online risk taking behaviours</li> <li>Known to the Police</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disruptive/challenging behaviour at school and in neighbourhood and at home</li> <li>At risk of permanent exclusion</li> <li>Regularly missing from home, education, employment or training</li> <li>Young person regularly involved in anti-social criminal activities/violent/risk taking behaviour</li> <li>Young person subject to anti social behaviour order or acceptable behaviour contract</li> <li>Child suspected to be involved in child sexual exploitation</li> <li>Subject to close attention of the Police</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence child is involved in child sexual exploitation</li> <li>Puts self or others in danger through reckless activity</li> <li>Disappears or is missing from home for 72 hours</li> <li>Multiple criminal incidents/ involvement in activities that would constitute arrestable offences/behaviour that would constitute criminal activity</li> <li>Sexual development and behaviour which may be indicative of abuse</li> </ul>

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## Threshold of need and intervention criteria

Development of child or young person 2 - Wellbeing		Children & young people who need additional help	
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Positive sense of self and abilities</li> <li>Demonstrates feelings of belonging and acceptance</li> <li>An ability to express needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shows lack of self-esteem</li> <li>Vulnerable to bullying, discrimination or harassment</li> <li>Limited insight into how appearance and behaviour are perceived</li> <li>Inclined to bully</li> <li>Concerns expressed about sexual identity</li> <li>Evidence/disclosure of self harm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seriously affected by persistent discrimination, e.g. on the basis of ethnicity, sexual orientation or disability</li> <li>Subject to severe bullying including online</li> <li>Severe bullying of others including online</li> <li>Family environment (substance misuse/poverty impacting on identity/worklessness/crime)</li> <li>Evidence/disclosure of persistent self harm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High level alcohol and/or substance misuse</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aware of personal and family history</li> <li>Stable and affectionate relationships with caregivers</li> <li>Good relationships with siblings</li> <li>Positive relationships with peers</li> <li>Age-appropriate friendships</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited support from family and friends</li> <li>Child on its own/ few friendships at home and/or school</li> <li>Lacks positive role models</li> <li>Serious conflicts with peers/siblings</li> <li>Difficulties sustaining relationships</li> <li>Children returning home following looked after episode</li> <li>Mainly online social networks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>'Looked after' children and young people</li> <li>Siblings of looked after children and young people with mental health or well-being issues</li> <li>Children and young people who have a high level of responsibility for others (e.g. parents, siblings)</li> <li>Young carer with little or no support and struggling to cope</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Child subject to a Child Protection Plan</li> <li>Child has suffered or may have suffered serious physical, sexual or emotional abuse or neglect including possible child sexual exploitation</li> <li>Child presents as severely neglected</li> </ul>

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## Threshold of need and intervention criteria

Development of child or young person 2 - Wellbeing		Children & young people who need additional help	
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
<p>Growing level of competencies in practical and emotional skills</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Friendships and relationships inappropriate for age</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Neglect of self-care because of alternative priorities e.g. substance misuse</li> <li>Neglect of young person's own child</li> </ul>
<p>Gaining confidence and skills to undertake activities away from the family</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Slow to develop age-appropriate self-care skills</li> <li>Failing to develop confidence and skills for independence</li> <li>Young people living independently</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Change of appearance</li> <li>Young person living independently and not coping to a significant degree</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acute and serious mental or physical health needs or behavioural difficulties impacting significantly on ability to care for self</li> <li>Profound/severe and/or multiple disabilities impacting on ability to care for self</li> </ul>
<p>Milestones for cognitive development are met</p> <p>Demonstrates a range of skills and interests</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Milestones for cognitive development are not met</li> <li>Mild to moderate learning difficulties</li> <li>Identified learning needs from School Action of SEN Code of Practice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complex learning and/or disability needs</li> <li>Serious developmental delay</li> <li>Additional special educational needs support including Education, Health and Care Plan</li> </ul>	

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## Threshold of need and intervention criteria

Development of child or young person 3 - Learning		Children & young people who need additional help	
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access to educational provision appropriate to age and ability</li> <li>Access to employment (including work based learning) appropriate to age and ability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Poor school/early years attendance/ punctuality</li> <li>Gaps in school/learning</li> <li>Behaviour likely to lead to exclusion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parent/child subject of statutory intervention for poor attendance; persistent poor attendance with parental acceptance</li> <li>Multiple fixed-term exclusions</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regularly attends education or training, or in full-time work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Home education/out of education/not receiving standard education</li> <li>Multiple changes of school/early years setting</li> <li>No access to early developmental experiences</li> <li>Often appears tired in school which appears to impact on participation and achievement</li> <li>Not accessing work-appropriate skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Permanent exclusion imminent</li> <li>Multiple changes of school without notification</li> <li>Has no school place and meets hard to place criteria</li> <li>Emotionally-based school refuser</li> <li>Not in education, employment or training and experiencing barriers to progress</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acquiring a range of skills and interests</li> <li>No concerns about achievement or cognitive development</li> <li>Access to books/toys, play</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires a modified curriculum and timetable</li> <li>Learning expectations are not met</li> <li>Not making progress in line with national expectations or children with similar needs</li> <li>Cannot access age appropriate resources for learning and play</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires alternative curriculum/timetable</li> <li>Unable to access mainstream curriculum</li> <li>Not making progress in spite of intervention</li> <li>Educational (or social or mental health needs) may result in educational placement out of school or away from home</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Well motivated and self- confident</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seeing little or no value in education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total disengagement from learning/training</li> </ul>	

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Threshold of need and intervention criteria

Parents and carers		Children & young people who need additional help			
Level 1 Requires universal services only		Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	
Basic care and ensuring safety and protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides for child's physical needs, e.g. appropriate nutrition, clothing and medical care</li> <li>Protects from danger and harm in home and elsewhere</li> <li>Parents able to meet child's needs and know how and where to access support</li> <li>Works effectively with services in best interests of the child or young person</li> <li>Parents ensure safe internet practice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parents providing inconsistent supervision including use of information technology</li> <li>Parents struggling to meet child or young person's needs without support</li> <li>Child's and/or parent's disability makes parenting challenging</li> <li>Poor social skills of parents and/or child</li> <li>Child or young person exposed to inadequately controlled hazards/risks</li> <li>Parent struggling to prioritise child's needs over their own</li> <li>Parents over-controlling</li> <li>Evidence of domestic abuse</li> <li>Child accessing social media sites without age appropriate parental supervision or controls</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Food, warmth and basic care erratic and inconsistent</li> <li>Parent struggling to provide 'good enough' care with significant impact on child</li> <li>Parents involved in criminal activity significant impact on child welfare</li> <li>Parents' mental health and/or substance misuse significantly affect care of children</li> <li>Ongoing serious domestic abuse</li> <li>Parents unable to safely care for their other children</li> <li>Inability to recognise child's needs such that child's development may be significantly impaired</li> <li>Parents unable/unwilling to provide supervision to child based on age, maturity and development</li> <li>Previous history of parents unable to care for children</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parents unable to provide 'good enough' care that is adequate and safe which places the child at risk of significant harm</li> <li>Persistent instability and violence in the home</li> <li>Parents do not take appropriate action if child goes missing</li> <li>Child not protected from sexual exploitation</li> <li>Child left alone or unsupervised based on age, development and/or maturity</li> <li>Allegation of serious injury/abuse</li> <li>Pre-birth assessment identifies unborn child at risk of significant harm</li> <li>Mental or physical health problem, learning disability or chaotic substance/alcohol misuse that severely impacts on ability to provide basic care for child</li> <li>Unable to protect from significant harm including contact with unsafe adults</li> </ul>	

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Threshold of need and intervention criteria

Parents and carers		Children & young people who need additional help						
Level 1 Requires universal services only		Level 2	Level 3	Level 4				
Basic care and ensuring safety and protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parents provide secure and consistent care</li> <li>Parents show appropriate warmth, praise and encouragement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inconsistent responses to child/young person</li> <li>Erratic or inconsistent care from multiple carers</li> <li>Family disputes impacting on child/young person</li> <li>Poor home routines</li> <li>Over-protective care which inhibits child's social and emotional development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Child has experienced multiple main carers</li> <li>Child/parent relationship at risk of breakdown</li> <li>Chaotic parenting of child/young person</li> <li>Parents unable to exercise control of child/young person</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allegation or reasonable suspicion of serious injury/abuse</li> <li>Extreme/continuous domestic abuse</li> <li>Child beyond parental control</li> <li>Child rejected by parent</li> <li>Abandoned child/unaccompanied minor</li> <li>Child/parent relationship broken down</li> <li>Parents not assessing the risks posed by potential carers</li> </ul>				
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sets consistent and appropriate boundaries taking account of age/development of child/young person</li> <li>Enables child to access appropriate activities and to experience success</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parent provides inconsistent boundaries</li> <li>Parent provides limited interaction/ stimulation for child</li> <li>Child or young person spends considerable time alone including online</li> <li>Lack of response to concerns raised about child or young person</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No effective boundaries set</li> <li>Parents unable to provide appropriate role model</li> <li>Development of child impaired through lack of appropriate stimulation and play</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No effective boundaries set – child out of control/offending and developmental delay</li> <li>Parents do not know child's associations with adults, on-line and offline and in danger of child sexual exploitation</li> </ul>

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Threshold of need and intervention criteria

Parents and carers		Children & young people who need additional help						
Level 1 Requires universal services only		Level 2	Level 3	Level 4				
Guidance, Boundaries and Stimulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parent does not support access to positive new experiences or social interaction</li> <li>Child accessing social media sites without age appropriate parental supervision or controls</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exposure to inappropriate or harmful material and people (e.g. via internet)</li> <li>Parents in conflict with statutory services</li> <li>No access/no interest in accessing constructive leisure activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Family breakdown related in some way to child's behavioural difficulties</li> <li>Suspicion of female genital mutilation within the family or significant others</li> <li>Family history of culture of forced marriage/ honour based violence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Suspicion of child being taken/prepared for female genital mutilation, arranged or forced marriage</li> </ul>				
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Family history, functioning and well-being</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Family is socially isolated</li> <li>Family has poor relationships or no contact with extended family</li> <li>Family associated with other individuals known to agencies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Destructive relationships with wider family including historical and inter-generational issues</li> <li>Association with potentially harmful individuals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Household members/adult in contact with children who is subject to multi agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA) or multi agency risk assessment conference (MARAC) meetings</li> </ul>

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Threshold of need and intervention criteria

Family and environmental factors		Children & young people who need additional help						
Level 1 Requires universal services only		Level 2	Level 3	Level 4				
Family history, functioning and well-being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No concerns regarding parental engagement</li> <li>Family stresses but coping well</li> <li>Few significant changes in family composition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Suspected/occasional domestic abuse</li> <li>Multiple births/high number of young children</li> <li>Family seeking asylum or refugees</li> <li>Sibling/parent involved in criminal activity</li> <li>Family not coping</li> <li>Young carer (parent/siblings)</li> <li>Privately fostered – unapproved or not notified</li> <li>Living with other family members</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Family breakdown related in some way to child's behavioural difficulties</li> <li>Suspicion of female genital mutilation within the family or significant others</li> <li>Family history of culture of forced marriage/ honour based violence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Suspicion of child being taken/prepared for female genital mutilation, arranged or forced marriage</li> </ul>				
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sense of larger familial network and/or good friendships outside of the family unit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Family is socially isolated</li> <li>Family has poor relationships or no contact with extended family</li> <li>Family associated with other individuals known to agencies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Destructive relationships with wider family including historical and inter-generational issues</li> <li>Association with potentially harmful individuals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Household members/adult in contact with children who is subject to multi agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA) or multi agency risk assessment conference (MARAC) meetings</li> </ul>

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Threshold of need and intervention criteria

Family and environmental factors		Children & young people who need additional help			
Level 1 Requires universal services only		Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	
Housing, employment and finances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parents able to manage working or unemployment arrangements adequately and do not perceive them as unduly stressful</li> <li>Reasonable income over time with resources used appropriately to meet individual needs</li> <li>Family accessing generally good universal services in the neighbourhood</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parents experience continuing stress due to unemployment or 'overworking'</li> <li>Difficulties managing household finances</li> <li>Low level debt/in need of financial advice</li> <li>Low income/financial hardship</li> <li>Lack of affordability for basic amenities including household fuel and food</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Serious debts/poverty impacting on ability to meet family's basic needs</li> <li>Extreme poverty/debt, impacting on ability to care for child</li> <li>Homeless/sofa surfing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Suspicion of child being taken/prepared for female genital mutilation, arranged or forced marriage</li> </ul>	
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Family feels integrated into the community</li> <li>Adequate social and friendship networks</li> <li>Community are generally supportive of family and/or child</li> </ul>



Devon Safeguarding Children Board would like to thank the Torbay partnership for their work in developing this threshold tool document. The consistent application of thresholds will improve opportunities to safeguard children and help staff working across our borders. *Approved by the Devon Safeguarding Children Board March 2015. Revised Sept 2016*

For further information about using this tool, you can watch a short training film. Go to [www.devonsafeguardingchildren.org/workersandvolunteers/threshold-tool-the-childs-journey/](http://www.devonsafeguardingchildren.org/workersandvolunteers/threshold-tool-the-childs-journey/)

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Devon Threshold Matrix

Threshold Matrix	Name of child:	Date								
		Level 1	Level 2			Level 3			Level 4	
Development (1: Health)	General Health									
	Physical & Sensory Development									
	Speech, Language and Communication									
Development (2: Wellbeing)	Emotional and Social									
	Behaviour									
	Identity, Self-esteem, Image									
	Family and Social Relationships									
Development (Learning)	Self Care Skills and Independence									
	Understanding, Reasoning & Problem Solving									
	Participation in Education or Work									
	Progress and Achievement in Learning									
Parents and Carers	Aspirations									
	Basic Care / Ensuring Safety and Protection									
	Emotional Warmth and Stability									
Family & Environmental Factors	Guidance, Boundaries and Stimulation									
	Family History, Functioning and Well-being									
	Wider family									
	Housing, Employment and Finances									
Vulnerability Assessment	Social and Community Elements									
	Universal									
	Low									
	Med									
Level 1: Universal Services	High									
	L									
	M									
	H									
Level 2: Children with additional needs	L									
	M									
	H									
	L									
Level 3: Children with complex additional needs	M									
	H									
	L									
	M									
Level 4: Children in need of protection	H									
	L									
	M									
	H									
Any other comments/remarks/issues, for example cultural or language considerations or additional observations:										

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