

# Assessing need and giving support

Children and Young People (Jersey) Law 2022

A better future for all  
Jersey's Children and  
Young People



The new law and its guidance make sure everyone understands their role and responsibilities to:

- promote and support the wellbeing of children and young people
- safeguard their welfare.

This tells you more about how everyone working with children and young people will support them.

## The steps

### Spot the need

All staff should know how to spot when a child needs support. They should also know what to do if a child tells them about a need or asks for help. When they identify a child has a need they must:

- record what the need is
- explain clearly what will happen next, and why.

If more information or support is needed to help the child and family, staff must make sure they get an assessment.

### Assess the need

Wellbeing assessments should be structured around the **8 wellbeing indicators** ([Jersey's Children First](#)).

The assessment should be carried out, when possible, by someone that works with the child, that they know and trust.



### Develop the wellbeing plan and deliver it

When the child has had an assessment, and their need has been identified they should be given a plan. The plan should include:

- information about their needs
- information about all the support
- who will give the support, where and when
- any long-term goals and outcomes
- the views and wishes of the child
- when the plan will be reviewed.

**The child should be given one lead worker.** They will be responsible for preparing and managing the wellbeing plan.

### Review the plan

The wellbeing plan should be reviewed regularly. Needs can change and it's important that the plan is up to date and can support the child.

At a review, the lead worker might decide to:

- **Amend the plan** and make any changes to support.
- **Transfer the plan** to a new lead worker if the child's situation has changed or they've moved.
- **End the plan** if the child has reached the outcomes and they don't need support anymore.

★ **We want all children to get the right support at the right time. Every contact is an opportunity to identify needs and step in early to help them. This makes a big difference.**

To find out more, go to:

[Children and Young People Law](#)



### Listening to children and young people

Children and young people have the right to be involved and listened to in decisions that affect their lives (UNCRC Article 12). Their views should be listened to and captured in every step of this process.

They should be given information that is easy to understand and right for their age so they understand what's happening and why. There are [Participation Standards for Children and Young People](#).

### Identifying the level of need

**Universal Need** – children and young people who don't need any additional support past what's available to all children.

**Wellbeing Need** – children and young people with a wellbeing need, getting extra support from services like health visitors, teachers, youth services and family support. This is called '**Early Help**'.

**Health or Development Need** – children and young people with more complex needs getting support for their health or development. Services should work together and include social workers, health care professionals and others. This is called '**Child in Need**'.

**Safeguarding Need** – children and young people who are at risk of harm and need protecting. Services should work together and support their safety, health and wellbeing. This is called '**Child Protection**'.

