

Understanding the Continuum of Children's Needs

This important document, produced and published by the Safeguarding (Children) Partnership Board, supports those working with children to identify the kind of support/help a child may need in different circumstances. It helps identify when a child needs or risks to them may be escalating and when an enquiry to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) or a request for social work involvement may be needed. It does not replace professional judgement, but supports it.

Children should be supported to prevent circumstances and/or situations escalating. Where a child's needs are wholly met by their family, universal services and additional support, social work services will not be involved. However, where concerns increase, a social worker will lead/co-ordinate the Child and Family Assessment and Plan as needed.

The Safeguarding (Children) Partnership Board's [Continuum of Children's Needs](#) gives a shared understanding and language around the needs of children. It enhances and supports the collective understanding of risk of harm. It helps inform 'professional conversations' between colleagues who work with children, improving the quality and consistency of assessments and the identification of risk to children. Where there are concerns that professional decision making is getting in the way of the protection of children, the Safeguarding (Children) Partnership Board's [Escalation and Resolution Pathway](#) should be used.