

Continuum of need and response



Information for people who work with families

Continuum of Need

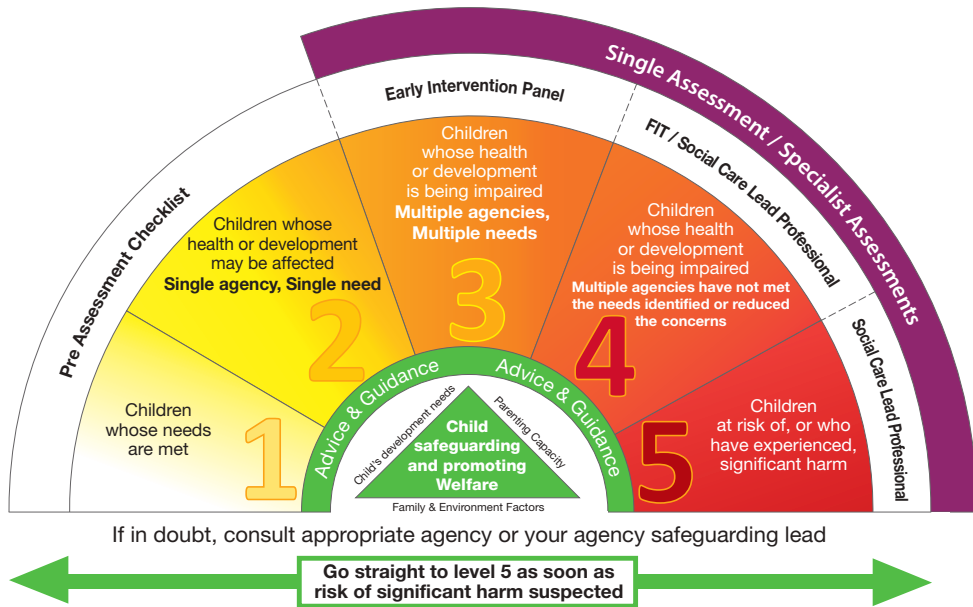


Most children and families will have their needs met with support from extended family, friendships, and their community and via access to universal services. Some children and families will require additional help and a very small minority will need intervention aimed at protecting them from significant harm.

The Children Act necessitates an assessment process where priorities of need can be identified. The purpose of this document is to establish a common language and definition across all levels of the continuum. The indicators listed are examples only and can never replace professional judgement, analysis and discussion. Where it is felt that a child, young person or families has needs that are beyond the remit of universal services alone the Single Assessment should be used as a means of identifying the level of need.



Continuum of Need and Response



Level 1 represents children with no identified additional needs. Their needs are met through accessing universal services.

Level 2 represents children with additional needs that can be met by targeted support by a single practitioner or agency - universal services.

Level 3 represents children with additional needs that can be met by targeted support by a multi-agency integrated support package - mainly universal services coordinating their approach.

Level 4 represents children with significant additional needs that have not been met following a co-ordinated, multi-agency response from the Early Intervention Panel and for whom significant concerns remain. This is when Children's Social Care may become involved.

Level 5 represents children with complex needs at the highest level of vulnerability which will be met by multi-agency support from specialist services. (Social Care will always be the lead professional when a child protection enquiry is necessary, S47)

Levels of vulnerability and need



The following provides more information on the different levels and give examples of children and young people's needs. This is not an exhaustive list of needs. If you have any concerns about a child consult your immediate line manager and if necessary share information with the most relevant agency/organisation.

Level 1 Children whose needs are met

Universal services are available to all children and young people. The most easily identifiable universal services that children and families will access are primary health and education.

Most children will access universal services successfully and have their needs met via those universal services and their family, informal support systems and the voluntary sector.

Indicative examples of needs and circumstances:

- A new born baby is provided with the necessary post natal care through midwifery services
- A mother having problems with her child's sleep patterns or feeding difficulties has the child's needs met through health services or support from a local Children's Centre
- Children have their education needs met through schools
- All young people 13 plus have their need for careers information, advice, guidance and support from Careers Advisor.

Level 2

Level 2 Children with additional needs, whose health and development may be affected without a co-ordinated and targeted response from services and an improved outcome would be likely if services were provided.

If the child's circumstances do not improve after maximising the workers own agency resources, the worker must consider other agencies that may have skills and knowledge that may be of benefit.

Consider seeking advice and guidance from the appropriate agency.

Indicative examples of needs and circumstances:

- A child is struggling to communicate at nursery. Speech and Language Therapy services are accessed and the assessed need is met
- A learning mentor assesses that a young person has a problem with alcohol and drugs, therefore substance misuse services are accessed and the need met
- A housing officer assesses that a family with children has financial difficulties and accesses welfare benefit advice and the need is met
- A class teacher identifies a child's problems with accessing the curriculum and requests a service from another education professional for example specialist teacher, educational psychologist as part of SEN support
- A health visitor assesses a child as having additional health needs and refers to a paediatrician who meets the need
- An adult social care worker providing support for a parent with mental health problems assesses the young person in the family as inappropriately caring and refers to the Young Carers as part of the action plan for the family
- A child/young person is assessed as being at risk of being involved in anti-social behaviour by a youth worker who accesses positive activities and the young person is diverted from the risky behaviour.

Assessments of additional needs are best recorded on a Early Intervention Single Assessment form which can be used to access additional services. The Early Intervention Support, Information for Professionals booklet provides further guidance and also explains how the Early Intervention Single Assessment process fits in with Early Intervention / Help and the use of Locality Early Intervention Panels.

Level 3

Children and young people whose health and development is being impaired by a range of unmet needs and where an integrated response from a number of agencies and support systems is necessary to achieve an improvement in outcomes.

Complete an Early Intervention Single Assessment (EISA) after checking that one is not already open with the Early Intervention Assessment Team and consider if a referral to your Locality Panel is required.

Indicative examples of needs and circumstances:

- Children and young people who may be at risk of sexual exploitation through their own vulnerability or association with others who are believed to be victims of sexual exploitation
- A family where the children have complex needs, there is no extended family or one of the parents becomes terminally ill
- A young person who is displaying a range of anti - social behaviour or extremist views and or a poor school attendance
- Parents capacity is compromised by drug and alcohol problems
- A child displaying challenging behaviour due to them experiencing their parent's domestic violence or mental health issues
- A child who continues to miss health appointments for any intervention
- Children who have severe disabilities, health or specialist needs requiring a co-ordinated intervention from a number of agencies will require specialist assessments, including from social care.



Level 4

Children with significant additional needs that have not been met following a coordinated, multi-agency response from the Early Intervention Panel and for whom significant concerns remain.

Indicative examples of need and circumstances:

All those examples described in level 3 where families have had the benefits of a multi-agency coordinated approach, where services have been provided and the impact of these reviewed, where a lead professional and multi-agency teams despite the appropriate services being provided, the concerns for the child remain or have escalated, and their outcomes remain poor.

Level 5

Children at risk or who have experienced significant harm

Children will have high level of vulnerability at this level and a referral must be made to Social Care immediately by telephone followed by a referral form within 48 hours. Where applicable a copy of the completed Early Intervention Single Assessment should also be provided.

The judgment about what constitutes significant harm is complex one; see Working Together (2015) for more detailed information. Therefore the examples of needs and circumstances are indicative only and an assessment by social care practitioners will be necessary to inform the judgment.

Children and young people who need protection from harm:

- Children, Young People and Unborn children at risk or who have been significantly harmed
- Children being abused including sexually exploited
- Children who have been abandoned
- A child/young person, who makes an allegation of abuse against a professional
- Children with a serious and persistent eating disorder who refuse treatment
- Children who have significantly, life threatening, self-harming behaviour / suicide attempts
- Children who make an allegation of FGM or indicate a future risk from FGM

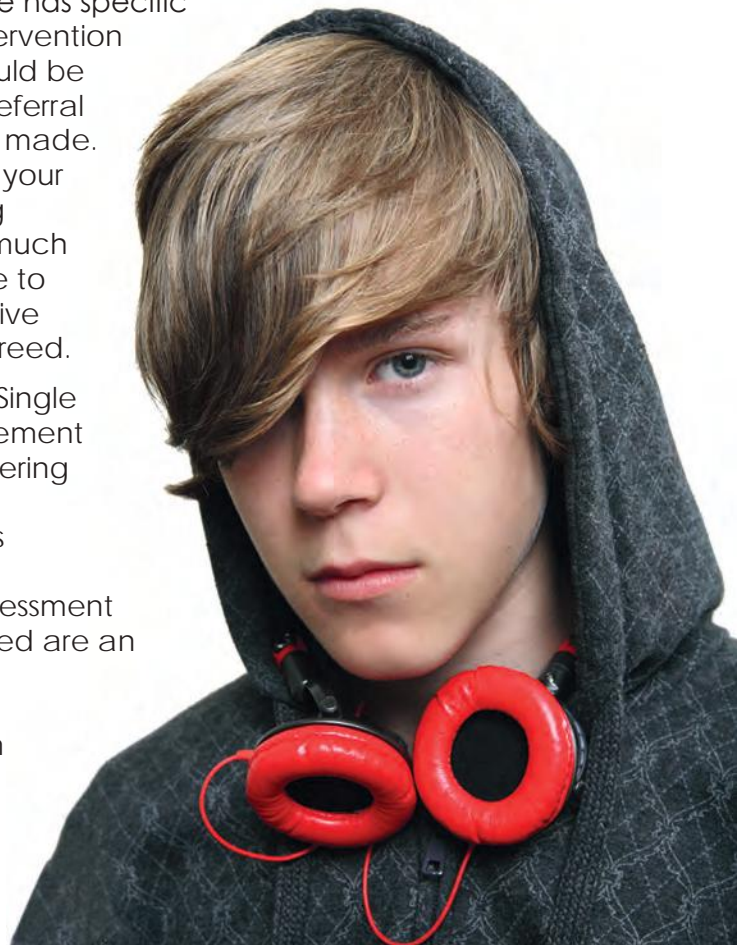
Continuum of Need A tool for Early Intervention




The Early Intervention Strategy (EIS) has been developed to deliver a co-ordinated approach to multi-agency locality working. This provides Calderdale Council and its partners a robust framework to ensure the delivery of efficient and effective services to families. The priority is to deliver intervention which is early and focused for children, young people (0-18 or 0-25 for a child with a disability) and their families who have been identified as being most at risk of needing support from a specialist service.

An essential part of successful Early Intervention is to identify the appropriate needs of an individual or family. Where a service has specific concerns, an Early Intervention Single Assessment should be completed before a referral to the locality panel is made. This will allow you and your service as the referring agency to gather as much information as possible to allow early and effective interventions to be agreed.

The Early Intervention Single Assessment is a key element of our strategy in delivering more effective, early intervention, as well as prevention. The Early Intervention Single Assessment and Continuum of Need are an important tool for the identification and assessment of children and young people





considered to be in need of additional support. Children and young people considered to be in need of additional support are most likely to be at level 2 and 3 of the Continuum of Need.

Whenever a practitioner working with a family identifies a potential unmet need for a child or young person, they should consider undertaking an Early Intervention Single Assessment. This will help the practitioner to consider **key indicators** of need, **identify and assess** any risks or protective factors, **help specify desired outcomes and identify key services**.

Assessment Expectations

The Early Intervention Single Assessment should be completed by the Lead Professional as early as possible after concerns are identified and consent sought. The Early Intervention Single Assessment will help to facilitate earlier and better joint working with the parent or carer before a child or young person's needs escalate. The assessment should address concerns about a child/young person's or family's well-being that are related to issues beyond your service/support. An Early Intervention Single Assessment should also help improve the outcomes for a child or young person where current intervention and support processes are not working. Lastly, it will be the case that an Early Intervention Single Assessment will generate an action plan which will require a multi-agency approach to meeting the child's needs.

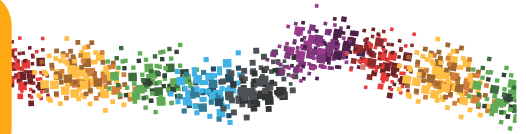
I think an Early Intervention Single Assessment is required, what do I do now?

Before you start the assessment process, please contact the central Early Intervention Assessment Team to check if an Early Intervention Single Assessment has already been completed and logged by another professional. All Early Intervention Single Assessment activity must be logged with the central team. This is essential to ensure that only one Early Intervention Single Assessment is in existence for a child/young person or family at any one time.

Any practitioner who needs help to decide whether to complete an Early Intervention Single Assessment should contact the Early Intervention Assessment Team for advice and support by email:

eiasessmentteam@calderdale.gov.uk or by calling
01422 392883 / 393661

Early Intervention Single Assessment



Calderdale's e-system is a secure consent-based IT system for storing, accessing and sharing information captured through the Early Intervention Single Assessment and other assessments leading to team around the child style support.

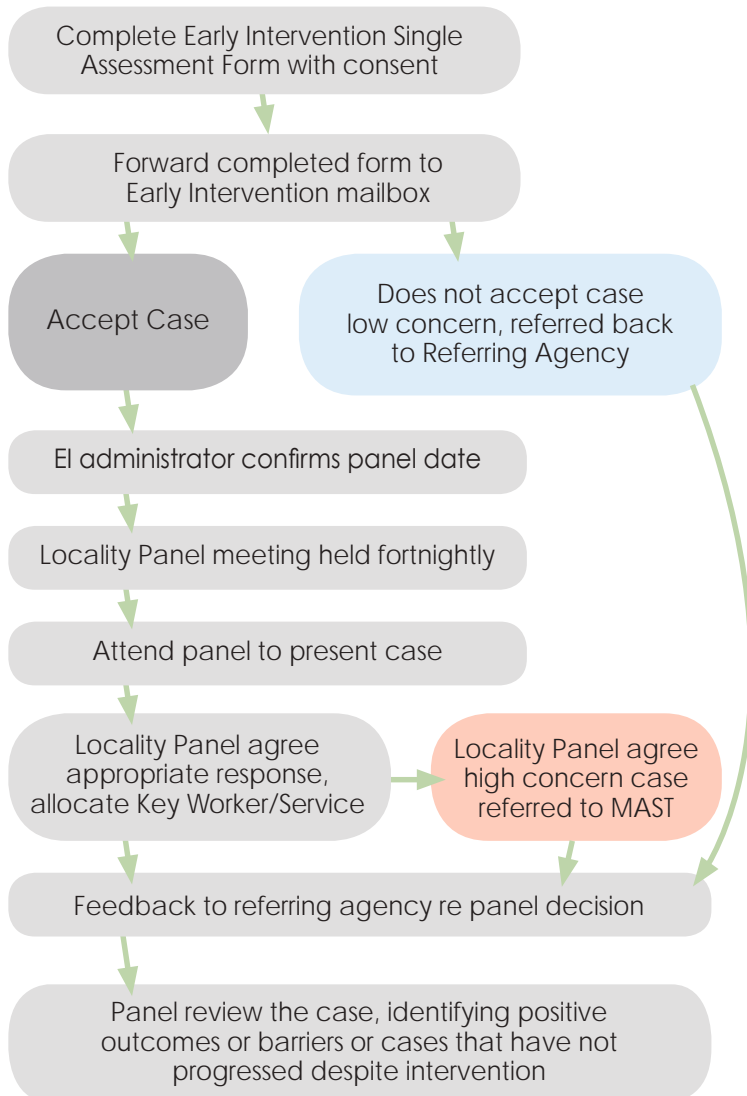
The Early Intervention Single Assessment has been developed from the previous Calderdale Assessment Framework to help practitioners working with children, young people and families to assess the additional needs of children and young people and to work together to meet them.

Calderdale's e-system will enable authorised, trained practitioners from across the children's workforce to electronically store and share assessment information quickly and securely, and to work together to build a holistic picture of a child or young person's needs. The system reduces the need for children, young people and families to repeat their story for different services.



Request for Early Intervention Services

When your school/service/family identifies additional needs for a child or young person that your service cannot address alone:



Early Intervention Single Assessment / Referral



The Early Intervention Single Assessment / Referral should be completed with as much detail as possible, please include / refer to any tools that have been used to inform the assessment in the explanation of support required. This includes school attendance percentage, a completed Strength and Difficulties Questionnaire and the voice of the child. Parental Signature / Young Person Signature when appropriate must be on the referral form prior to it being sent to the relevant locality panel. The form is available from www.earlyintervention.calderdale.gov.uk / or contact the EI mailbox.

Locality Panel

Once a referral has been made to the team, the relevant locality panel will work to implement the Early Intervention Strategy and deliver early and focused interventions which are required.

Key Functions of the Locality Panel

The locality panels work with services and key partners to provide positive outcomes for children, young people and families. To do this, the key functions of each panel are to:

- To receive referrals for multi-agency support at Tiers 2/3 of the Calderdale Continuum of Need, and allocate and/or refer to the appropriate lead agency
- To support the development of programmes and activities for both individuals and groups, which enhance the early Intervention process
- To monitor and follow up any barriers to delivery
- To ensure child, young person and family engagement in assessment and decision making.

Full guidance is available on our website www.calderdale.gov.uk search family support strategy.

Contact Details

Multi-Agency Screening Team (MAST)

MAST is the first point of contact for ANY CHILD PROTECTION concern.

Telephone: **01422 393336**

www.calderdale.gov.uk/socialcare/family/childprotection/index

Children's Assessment Team (CAT)

The Children's Assessment Team receives all incoming cases from MAST and carries out Statutory Child and Family Early Intervention Single Assessments to determine what further level of Social Care support is required or appropriate service.

Telephone: **01422 393340**

www.calderdale.gov.uk/socialcare/family/childprotection/index

Calderdale Emergency Duty Team

Health and Social Care (Adult Services) and Children and Young People's Services provide an emergency service at nights and weekends, when their offices are closed - the Emergency Duty Team. The service is available to any adult or child who has social care difficulties that are causing a serious risk or concern that cannot be left until the start of the next working day.

Telephone: **01422 288000**

www.calderdale.gov.uk/community/children/outofhours-support

Calderdale Safeguarding Children Board

Northgate House,
Northgate,
Halifax
HX1 1UN

Tel: **01422 394074**

Email: cscb@calderdale.gov.uk

www.calderdale-scb.org.uk



Calderdale
Safeguarding
Children Board

Contact Us



For more information, general questions or to make a referral, please use the contact details below for each locality team:

Upper Valley **Jeff Rafter**

Early Intervention Service Manager (Upper Valley)

Tel: **01422 368279** Email: eis.uppervalley@calderdale.gov.uk

Lower Valley **Parveen Akhtar**

Early Intervention Service Manager (Lower Valley)

Tel: **01422 394094** Email: eis.lowervalley@calderdale.gov.uk

Halifax Central **Steve Woodhead**

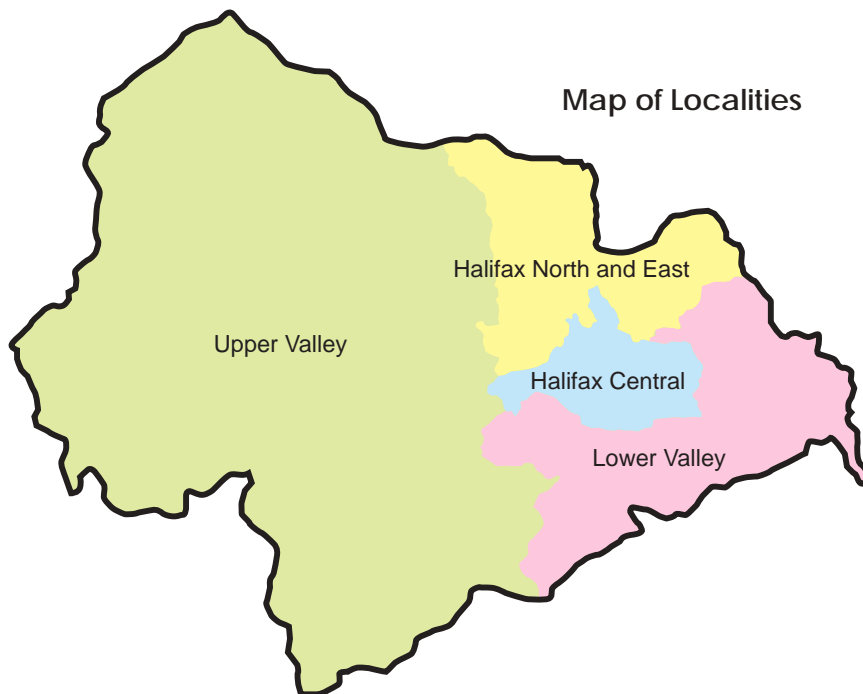
Early Intervention Service Manager (Halifax Central)

Tel: **01422 392510** Email: eis.halifaxcentral@calderdale.gov.uk

Halifax North and East **Carol Stone**

Early Intervention Service Manager (Halifax North and East)

Tel: **01422 288272** Email: eis.northandeast@calderdale.gov.uk



Map of Localities

Produced by Calderdale Council March 2015



