



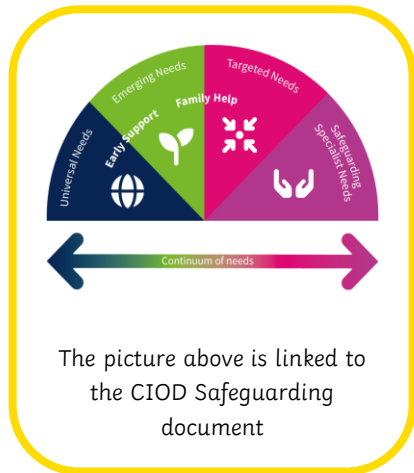
Seven Minute Safeguarding Continuum of Need

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

Please speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead: **Hannah Pallôt** or Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads: **Matt Collinge** or **Sam Shainberg** immediately with any concerns.
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What do we mean by 'Continuum of Need'?

The Continuum of Need has arisen out of the need for a common language and common framework which allows professionals to make decisions about a child's wellbeing with confidence. It allows professionals involved with a family or child to measure the progress of through the appropriate support being offered.



The picture above is linked to the CIOD Safeguarding document

Chronologies are key in highlighting where a child or family may sit on the continuum of need.

Why do we have a 'Continuum of Need'?

Working Together to Safeguard Children (2026) sets out a clear expectation that local agencies will work together and collaborate to identify children with additional needs and provide support as soon as a problem emerges. Providing early help is far more effective in promoting the welfare of children - and keeping them safe - than reacting later, when any problems, for example neglect, may have become more entrenched. The importance of using a child-centred approach in following the child's journey is also emphasised. All services which are provided must be based on a clear understanding of the needs and views of the individual child in their family and community context.

What are the different levels of need?

There are four levels of need outlined in the diagram: Universal (level 1); Emerging (level 2); Targeted (level 3) and Specialist (level 4).

Level 1 Universal: Most children's needs can be met by their family and universal services/ordinarily available services, such as education, health, community or voluntary agencies and leisure services. Children at Universal level, make good progress in most areas of their development.

Level 2 Emerging: Children and their families have additional or emerging needs that are starting to impact on their daily life. The needs cannot be met through Universal Services alone and these children and their families require additional support. This support may be through Early Support or Family Help.

Level 3 Targeted: Children / families with multiple unmet or partially met needs that will likely require regular home visits and targeted interventions from a range of partner agencies to address their support needs. Without additional support, the needs of the family are likely to increase and escalate, potentially resulting in statutory interventions being required.

Level 4 Specialist: Children and families have needs which cannot be met through early help or targeted services and require specialist support from a statutory agency. This applies where there is 'reasonable cause' to suspect a child is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm as defined by the Children Act 1989'. This also includes concerns relating to 'harmful practices' such as forced marriage, female genital mutilation or risks external to the family home