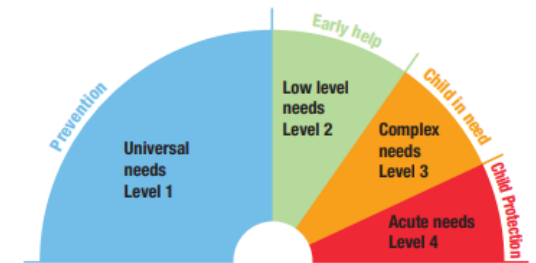


# Thresholds criteria for children's services in Camden



One of the key aims of children's services in Camden is to ensure that children with additional needs get the right service right from the start. To help professionals identify children with additional needs and inform decisions on referral, Camden promotes the use of the London Safeguarding Children Partnership thresholds and continuum of need matrix available at: [Threshold \(londonsafeguardingchildrenprocedures.co.uk\)](http://Threshold.londonsafeguardingchildrenprocedures.co.uk)

At each tier of need, the matrix provides a set of indicators based on the assessment framework dimensions, children's vulnerabilities such as disability and children's circumstances, such as those children living with domestic abuse. The tiers of need are also used by the Children and Families Contact Service to establish whether a case has reached the threshold for a service and to inform decisions on the most appropriate service for the child and family. All requests and referrals for **early help services (tier 2)** and **statutory social work services (child in need and child protection at tiers 3 & 4)** should be made to the Children and Families Contact Service via the CAF system or call **020 7974 3317** to get advice from a social worker.



	Tier of need	Description of children at this tier	Responses
Universal	<p><b>Tier 1: Universal:</b> These are children with no additional needs; all their health and developmental needs will be met by universal services. Children will consistently be receiving child focussed care from their parents.</p>	<p>Children living in stable, loving homes who are in good health and whose development is appropriate to their age.</p>	<p>All children should receive universal services such as health care and education, as well as early years and Integrated Youth Support Services. Professionals working with families should check if children are in receipt of universal services and take appropriate action where this is not the case or consider whether to step up to early help intervention.</p>
Early help	<p><b>Tier 2: Early Help:</b> These are children with additional needs who may be vulnerable and showing early signs of abuse and/or neglect; their needs are not clear, not known or not being met. These children may be subject to adult focussed care giving. This is the threshold for a multi-agency early help assessment to begin. Children will require a lead professional for a co-ordinated approach to the provision of additional services such as family support services, parenting programmes and children's centres. These will be provided within universal or targeted provision and do not include services from statutory social work services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children with mild disabilities or health issues</li> <li>• Children with special educational needs</li> <li>• Children who are missing from education or persistently absent from school</li> <li>• Young carers</li> <li>• Children showing signs of engaging in anti-social or criminal behaviour or who are vulnerable to extra-familial harm</li> <li>• Children growing up in difficult family circumstances where there are low levels of substance misuse, adult mental health difficulties or domestic violence</li> <li>• Families affected by parental ill health, parental custody, homelessness, poverty, immigration or other problems</li> <li>• Children showing early signs of developmental delay</li> <li>• Families affected by social isolation, discrimination or harassment</li> <li>• Children who show early signs of being radicalised by people outside of their immediate family.</li> </ul>	<p>Professionals should talk to the family about carrying out an Early Help assessment in order to identify appropriate services that could improve outcomes for the child. Where more than one agency is involved, a lead professional should be identified and the Team Around the Family should meet to devise an action plan that meets the child's additional needs. Where concerns escalate and the thresholds have been met for a child in need service, a step-up referral should be made to CSSW.</p> <p>Where there are concerns that a child may be being radicalised, professionals should discuss the matter with Camden's Prevent Co-ordinator or the Police Prevent Engagement Officer for advice on a possible referral to the Channel Panel.</p>

	Tier of need	Description of children at this tier	Responses
<b>Child in need</b>	<p><b>Tier 3: Children with complex multiple needs:</b> These are children who require specialist services in order to achieve or maintain a satisfactory level of health and development or to prevent significant impairment of their health and development and/or who are disabled. They may require longer term intervention from specialist services. In some cases children's needs may be secondary to adults needs. This is the threshold for an assessment led by children's social care under section 17 although the assessments and service required may come from a range of provision outside CSSW.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children with lifelong disabilities</li> <li>• Children whose growth and development is being impaired by the quality of care received</li> <li>• Children exhibiting high levels of behavioural difficulties or who are out of parental control</li> <li>• Children at risk of extra-familial harm, eg sexual/criminal exploitation.</li> <li>• Pregnant women whose lifestyle may be affecting the development of the unborn child</li> <li>• Parents experiencing difficulties in parenting capacity due to substance misuse, physical disability, learning difficulties, domestic abuse or family violence or mental health issues</li> <li>• Children with high levels of emotional difficulties who may need a service from CAMHS</li> <li>• Children who show more advanced signs of being radicalised and where parents or siblings may be involved in radicalisation.</li> </ul>	<p>Professionals should talk to the family about making a CAF referral to CSSW for a child in need service. CSSW will carry out a child and family assessment and convene a child in need meeting to develop the child's CIN plan. The allocated social worker will be the child's lead professional.</p> <p>Where there are concerns that a child may be being radicalised, professionals should discuss the matter with Camden's Prevent Coordinator or the Police Prevent Engagement Officer for advice on a possible referral to the Channel Panel.</p>
<b>Child protection</b>	<p><b>Tier 4: Children in acute need:</b> These children are suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. This is the threshold for child protection. These children are likely to have already experienced adverse effects and to be suffering from poor outcomes. Their needs may not be considered by their parents. This tier also includes Tier 4 health services which are very specialised services in residential, day patient or out-patient settings for children and adolescents with severe and/or complex health problems. This is likely to mean that they may be referred to CSSW under sections 20, 47 or 31 of the Children Act 1989. This would also include those children remanded into custody and statutory youth offending services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children requiring accommodation because there is no-one who is able to care for them</li> <li>• Children whom it is suspected are being physically, emotionally or sexually abused or neglected or living with high levels of domestic abuse or family violence</li> <li>• Children experiencing extra-familial harm including sexual and/or criminal exploitation</li> <li>• Children who may be at risk due to trafficking or modern slavery, forced marriage or FGM</li> <li>• Unborn babies where a pre-birth assessment has shown them to be at serious risk of significant harm.</li> </ul>	<p>Professionals must make a referral to CSSW. If the matter is urgent, professionals can make a child protection referral to the MASH by telephone and follow up with a written referral within 48 hours. CSSW will carry out a child and family assessment and take appropriate action needed to safeguard the child under statutory child protection procedures. The allocated social worker will be the lead professional for the child.</p> <p>Where there are high levels of concern around radicalisation, the Police must be informed.</p>