

Hackney Child Wellbeing Framework

The Hackney Child Wellbeing Framework focuses upon child and family needs, not thresholds for services. It does, however, attempt to give an indication of what might be an appropriate approach to responding to child and family needs by defining three levels:

- **Universal** – a response by universal services, often working individually
- **Universal Plus and Universal Partnership Plus** – a response by universal services working together in universal settings and sometimes bringing additional targeted resources into a multi-agency partnership plan to both assess and address concerns
- **Complex/high risk** – a response that requires high level specialist services, often governed by statutory frameworks, to take the lead role.

Universal services that meet universal needs include schools and childcare providers, children's centres, health visiting, school nursing, GPs, play services, Young Hackney, police, housing and the voluntary and community sector.

Some of the targeted services that can support universal services include family support services, First Steps, Young Hackney, Special Educational Needs, behaviour and educational support, speech and language therapy, short breaks and support for transitions, and voluntary and community services.

When needs are numerous or sufficiently intense to require a Universal Plus or Universal Partnership Plus response, this will often require a written plan as part of the Common Support Framework, Key Worker Action Plan (step across) or a Child and Family Assessment (step down) so that the family and all workers involved are aware of what outcomes we hope to achieve, who is responsible for the actions to achieve them and how we will know when we are successful.

When children and families have complex needs or are high risk, specialist support will sometimes be provided by Children's Social Care. This is indicated in the table by using **a bold typeface**. These are often situations where the child is at risk because of deficits in parenting or carer capacity. Other specialist services include Young Hackney, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services and specialist disability services (social care and/or health).

The pathway and processes for responding to need are described in the Resource Guide.

It is important to remember that each child and family will have a unique set of needs and strengths. The Child Wellbeing Framework is a guide and is not intended to replace professional knowledge, experience and discretion.

Professionals should be alert to the likely cumulative effect on children and young people of multiple concerns and consider whether the presence of numerous indicators (about the parenting being provided) amounts to the child's needs being neglected.

Universal

Any identified additional needs can be met by universal services.

Universal Plus and Universal Partnership Plus

Child/young person's needs can be met by universal services working together or with the addition of some targeted services

Complex/High Risk

Child/young person's needs require specialist services or a statutory response including Children's Social Care investigation and/or intervention

Health

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Has had all age-appropriate interventions in the Healthy Child Programme• Is healthy and well, development is age-appropriate and has had all appropriate immunisations• Has a healthy diet and appears well-nourished• Is registered with a GP and basic services such as dentist, optician• Can manage own treatment for any condition e.g. asthma, and take part in everyday life | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Long term conditions or serious illness• Frequent illness/accidents• Mild level of disability requiring additional support to be maintained in a universal setting• Poor nutritional status• Developmental delay• Non-immunised• Significantly under/overweight• Significant faltering growth of known cause• Multiple attendances at A & E or acute healthcare settings• Language and communication difficulties• Missed appointments—routine and non-routine• Child has significantly dropped in their placement along the 'centile' range for height/weight without adequate explanation• Child has conditions which, because of parents/carers not adhering to treatment plan, cause unnecessary levels of suffering• Child is not appropriately supervised | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Significant faltering growth of unknown cause• Significant developmental delays, disability or long term condition apparently caused or exacerbated by care given by parents• Injuries not consistent with explanation given• Disclosure of abuse from child/young person• Serious concern regarding fabricated/induced illness• Evidence of physical, emotional or sexual harm or neglect• Complex disability that cannot be maintained in a mainstream setting or without additional support• Child is born with indications of maternal substance misuse• Child in infancy has lost weight without adequate explanation• Child in hospital setting continuously for 3 months• Child is suffering as a result of inadequate access to primary/secondary healthcare• Child is consistently dirty/malodorous• Child has experienced or is at risk of experiencing Female Genital Mutilation• Young person has been victim of a knife or gun related injury |
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Emotional Health, Wellbeing and Behaviour

- Good mental health and psychological well being
 - Good quality attachments and relationships
- Low self esteem, withdrawn, or shows signs of depression
 - Challenging behaviour that parents find difficult to manage
 - Bullying or being bullied
 - Non life-threatening self harm
 - Child has caring responsibilities that impact on behaviour/development
 - Anxiety, low level depression or other difficult feelings
 - Difficult behaviour including inappropriate risky behaviour
 - Parental or family separation, illness or health problems
 - Relationship difficulties with family, friends or teachers
 - Child is significantly delayed in speech/expressive communication
 - Young person is being pressured to become gang-involved
- **Child's behaviour/activities places self or others at imminent risk of serious harm**
 - **Child persistently runs away**
 - **Child appears to have been trafficked**
 - Complex mental health and learning disability issues requiring long term or specialist interventions and treatment
 - Expression of suicidal thoughts
 - Severe or life-threatening mental health conditions (e.g. psychosis, risk of suicide or severe self harm, severe depressive episode, anorexia nervosa)
 - Severe impairment of functioning associated with mental health disorders (e.g. severe anxiety, severe OCD, phobic, panic disorders, ADHD, ASD, Tourette's syndrome, school refusal where mental health disorder plays a significant role.
 - Conduct difficulties and those which co-exist with other disorders where specific interventions may influence outcome, including children and young people who present a forensic risk
 - Moderate to severe depression
 - Severe and/or complex relationship difficulties leading to significant impairment of functioning and wellbeing

Education

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieving key stages • Good attendance at school/college/training • No barriers to learning • Planned progression beyond statutory school age | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor concentration • Low motivation • Out of school/excluded • Regular truancy • Non-attendance which is not certified by health professionals • NEET or at risk of NEET • School Action Plus • Frequent moving of school without reasonable cause • Poor access to books, toys, educational materials and/or correct uniform • Educated at home with engagement from family but child is not developing appropriately • Child has poor pro-social relationships and is being bullied and showing signs of developmental delay • Child consistently falls asleep during lessons | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chronic non-attendance, truancy • Permanently excluded • Children missing from education • No parental support for education • Statement of Special Educational Needs/Education Health and Care Plan • Professional concerns about the safety or wellbeing of a child whose family has elected home education |
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Social and Neighbourhood

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development stimulated through play and/or appropriate peer group interaction • Knowledgeable about the effects of crime and anti-social behaviour • Age-appropriate knowledge about sex and relationships • Age-appropriate independent living skills | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illegal employment • Difficulties with peer relationships • Child/young person not exposed to new/stimulating experiences • Pro-offending behaviour and attitudes • Coming to the notice of police • Engaging in substance misuse • High levels of anti-social behaviour/criminality • Being a victim of crime | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under 13 engaged in sexual activity • Child is begging/scavenging for food or money • Teenage parent under 16 • Young person being harmed through their substance misuse • Young people who pose a risk of harm to others • Young people involved in the Criminal Justice System • Child in secure remand • Inappropriate or harmful sexual/sexualised behaviour |
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Social and Neighbourhood (continued)

- Learning disability that places young person in vulnerable situations
- Child is not appropriately supervised in the home or community
- Young person is undertaking activities that evidence gang-involvement e.g. videos
- Child/young person is displaying extremist views and behaviours

- **Child being sexually exploited**
- **Child exploited for criminal purposes**
- **Child/young person being groomed into violent extremism**
- **Child in custody with no family support or involvement**
- **Child in hospital setting continuously for 3 months**

Parents/Parenting

- Consistent parenting providing appropriate guidance and boundaries
- Child's physical needs are adequately provided for
- Parenting generally demonstrates praise, emotional warmth and encouragement
- Positive family relationships, including between separated parents

- Mental and/or physical health needs or learning difficulties that can affect care of the child
- Postnatal depression
- Excessive anxiety regarding child's health
- Colludes with or condones failure to attend school
- Inconsistent or harsh parenting
- Lack of consistent boundaries, supervision and guidance
- Relationship difficulties that impinge on child
- Substance and or alcohol misuse affecting parenting
- Criminal or anti-social behaviour
- Learning difficulties that affect parenting/caring
- Parent/carer has health needs or engages in behaviour that leads to child being a 'young carer'
- Parent/carer is begging for food/money
- Parent/carer avoiding or refusing to engage with professionals where a concern has been raised

- Failure to access pre/postnatal care
- Very young or vulnerable child left alone
- Drug or alcohol abuse seriously affecting the ability to function
- Child/young person rejected from home
- Inability to judge dangerous situations
- Inability to protect child from harm
- Emotional neglect where earlier interventions have not been effective
- Adult mental health significantly impacting on the care of the child or young person
- Parent has serious mental health condition and child/young person is subject of parental delusion
- Parent/carer with significant learning disability seriously affecting ability to parent
- Any parent/carer who attempts suicide or self-harm
- Parent causing significant harm to child

Parents/Parenting (continued)

- Parent/carer does not encourage development of child's independence
- Parents/carers fail to understand the physical, social and spiritual needs of children at specific ages or stages
- Parents/carers do not take responsibility for issues which are beyond a child's developmental maturity

Family and Environment

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Good family relationships• Family feels accepted by the community• Family members are physically well and mentally stable• Family has positive relationships and appropriate support from others• Income is consistent and sufficient to meet basic family needs• Family have access to good, age-appropriate facilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inadequate/overcrowded housing• Family homeless or in temporary accommodation• Family routine not conducive to child's needs• Socially or physically isolated• Household members with disability or significant health problems• Family experiencing harassment, discrimination or are victims of crime• Children sometimes wear inappropriate clothing or appear unkempt• Scale 1 & 2 Domestic Violence as per Barnardo's Guidance• Home environment is not suitable for children/there are visible health and safety risks• The home is very cluttered | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children who are being looked after in private fostering arrangements• Adult who poses risk to children is in household or in contact with family• Drug taking, prostitution, and illegal activities that significantly impact on child• Children consistently appear dirty/clothing is inappropriate for climate• Imminent family breakdown• Homeless and destitute• Scale 3 & 4 Domestic Violence as per Barnardo's Guidance• Medicines or harmful products have been ingested by the child• There is insufficient/inadequate food for the child to eat |
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