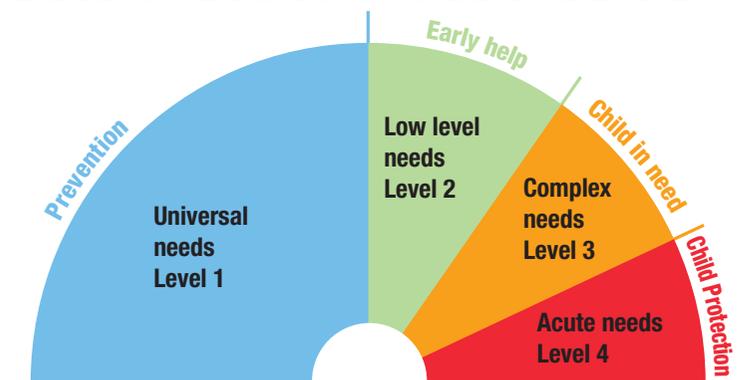


Thresholds criteria for children's services in Camden



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. The table below sets out the thresholds for services and interventions based on the child's needs. At each level of need there is a set of indicators to help professionals recognise the extent of a child's difficulties so that they can make informed decisions about which service to refer the child and family on to.

All requests and referrals for **early help services (level 2)** and **statutory social work services (child in need and child protection at levels 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.

| | Level of need | Indicators | Responses |
|-------------------|--|--|--|
| Universal | Level 1: Universal: Children whose needs are being met through universal services. This includes children with additional needs which can be met through a single universal service. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children in good physical health whose general development is age appropriate and who are making good progress academically. • Children living in stable families where parents are able to meet all the child's needs. • Children who need some support and who would benefit from additional universal services to improve outcomes. | 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. |
| Early help | Level 2: Low level needs or vulnerable to poor outcomes: Children whose needs cannot be met from one service and where there are a number of factors preventing the child from achieving their potential. Two or more of the indicators listed here need to be present. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children with mild disabilities or health issues; • Children with special educational needs. • Children who are out of school or have regular unauthorised absences. • Young carers. • Children showing signs of engaging in anti-social or criminal behaviour or who are vulnerable to extra-familial harm. • Children growing up in difficult family circumstances where there are low levels of substance misuse, adult mental health difficulties or domestic violence. • Families affected by parental ill health, parental custody, homelessness, poverty, immigration or other problems. • Children showing early signs of developmental delay; • Families affected by social isolation, discrimination or harassment. • Children who show early signs of being radicalised by people outside of their immediate family. | Professionals should talk to the family about carrying out a CAF 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 Child should meet to devise an action plan that meets the child's additional needs. Where the CAF indicates that thresholds have been met for a child in need service, a step up referral should be made to CSSW. 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. |