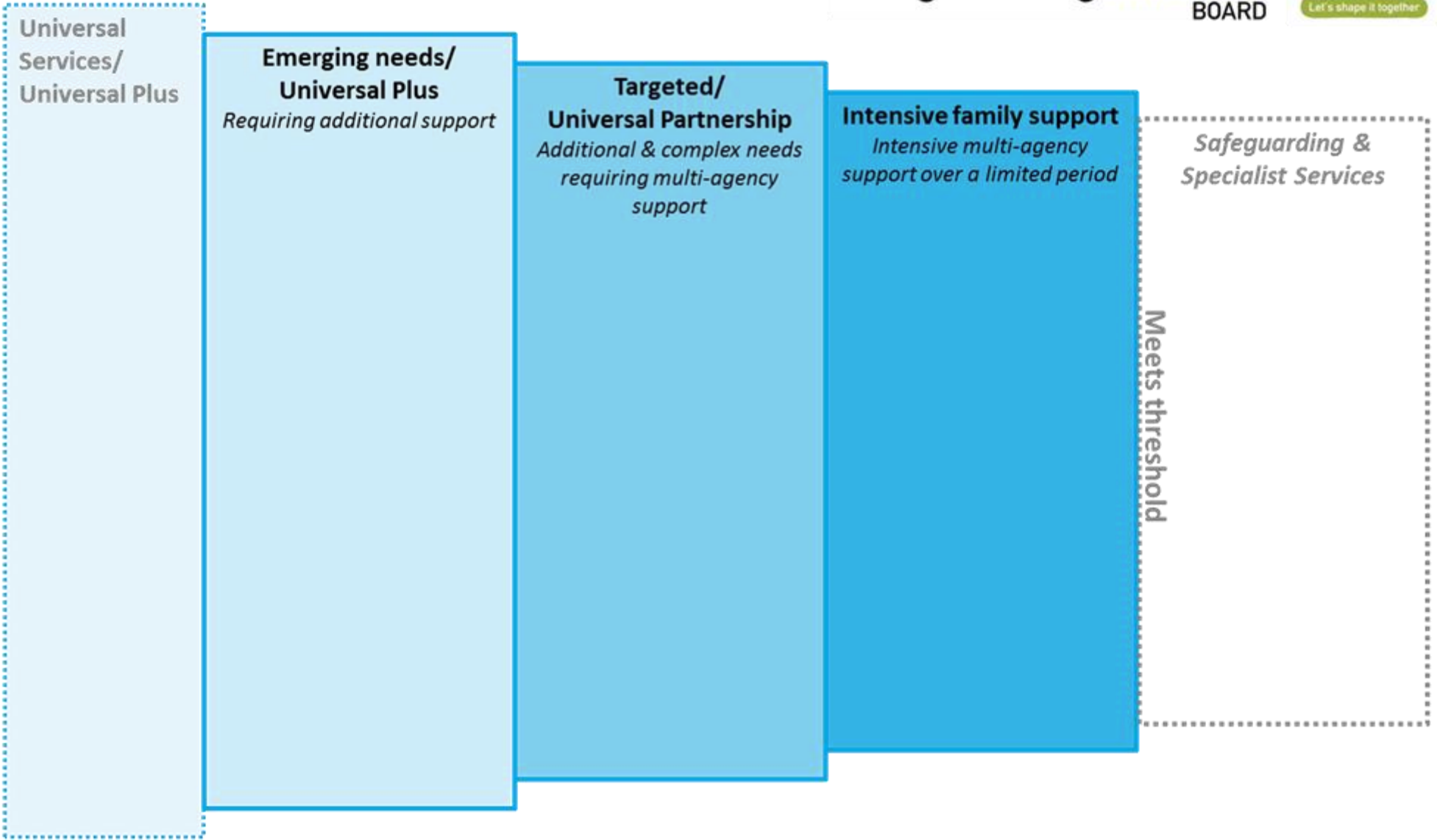


# Continuum of Need

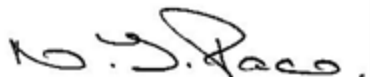


# THE CONTINUUM OF NEED

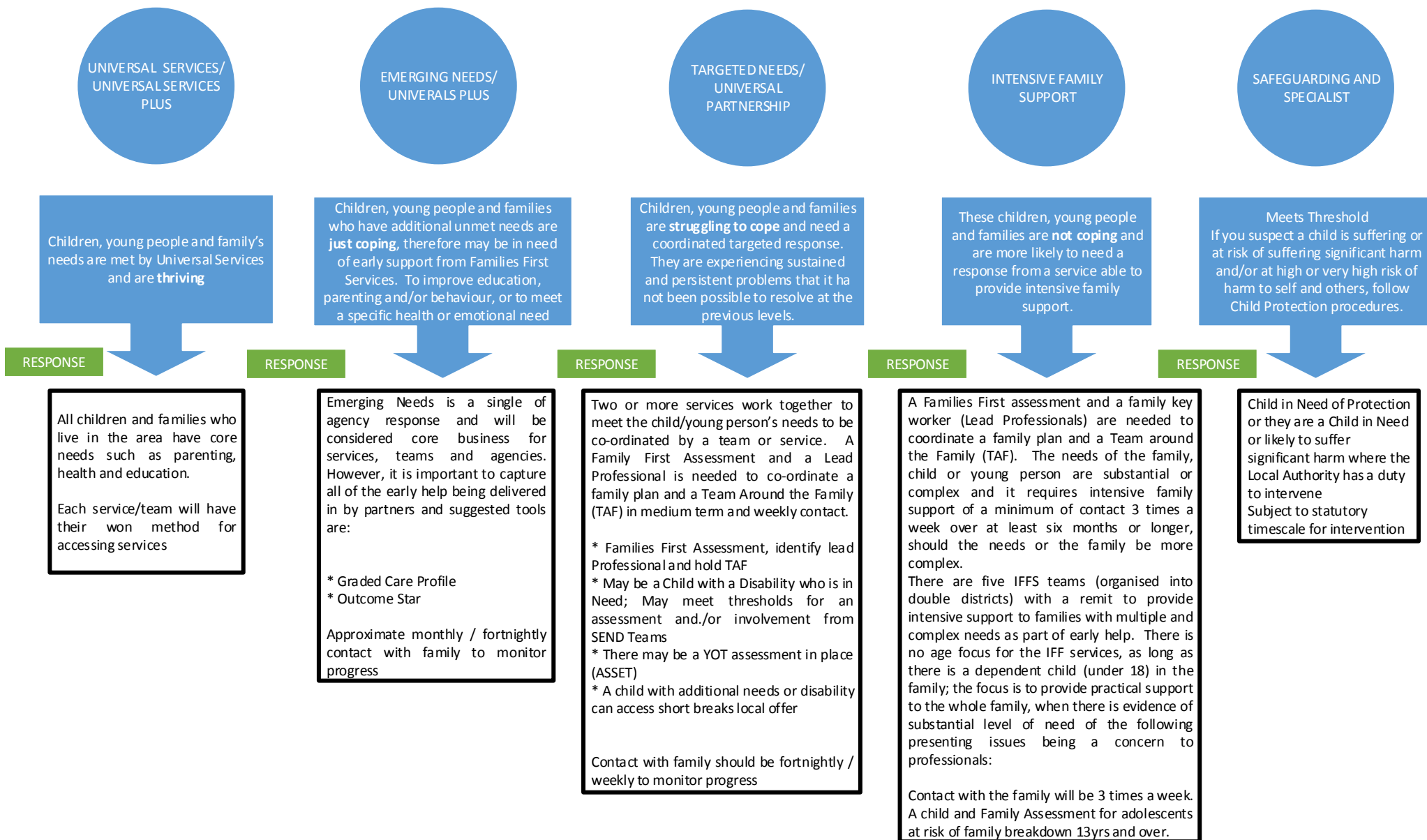
It gives me great pleasure to introduce the new Hertfordshire Continuum of Need and Thresholds document. The guidance sets out the 'Levels of Need' experienced by children, young people and families in Hertfordshire, it offers clarity and support to partners working with them and at what level they should be leading on early support. It recognises the contribution partners make to children, young people and families across the Continuum of Need but is intended to provide clarity to practitioners of the levels of need below the threshold for safeguarding and specialist services. It does promote earlier support for families to address the issues before they escalate to crisis point and ensure that children are kept safe from harm.

The guidance document supports and underpins Families First and will assist practitioners in using assessments tools at different levels across the Continuum of Need and the associated processes to support working with the whole family and provide support at the earliest opportunity. However, it is not intended as a prescriptive guide and recognises that families may have a combination of needs which may require a different response at another level.

Nicky Pace – *Independent Chair Hertfordshire Children's Safeguarding Board*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nicky Pace'.

The Continuum of Needs indicators: these help you in thinking through where a child might sit on the continuum. They can be used to support your conversations with other professionals and guide your professional decisions. There will still always be grey areas and they do not replace professional judgement and partners will be supported to recognise this through the Families First Partnership Hubs



Universal Services/Universal Services Plus

Emerging Needs/ Universal Plus

Targeted Needs/ Universal Partnership

Intensive Family Support

Safeguarding and Specialist

# CIRCUMSTANCES AND KEY FEATURES

- Health & wellbeing**
  - Children and Young People (CYP) meeting developmental milestones
  - Good hygiene
  - Able to perform self-care appropriate to age
  - Appropriately cared for when ill
  - Good emotional health and wellbeing
  - Age appropriate social care and communication skills
  - Positive sense of self and abilities
- Family & Environment**
  - Positive attachments
  - Suitable home environment
  - Able to recognise unsafe activities
  - Secure relationships/ attachments
- Education & identity**
  - CYP attending school/ nursery
  - CYP have their social, moral, spiritual and cultural needs met
  - Good relationships with peers and adults
  - Appropriate stimulation, boundaries and guidance
  - Good home/school link

- Health & wellbeing**
  - Slow reaching developmental
  - Early/unsafe sexual activity
  - Missing/poor attendance at medical appointments
  - Not registered with a GP
  - Some relationship difficulties (e.g. divorce/separation, bereavement)
  - Frequent illness and infections/ minor health injuries/problems/ unnecessarily accessing health services
  - CYP for whom there are emotional, behavioural mental health concerns
  - Delayed speech or language/ poor concentration
  - Starting to experiment with substance/drugs
  - Parents struggling to address own emotional needs and basic routines
- Family & Environment**
  - Families subject to discrimination/harassment/risk of radicalisation
  - Change in family circumstances
  - Very young parents who are struggling to cope
  - At risk of eviction through non-payment of rent/utilities
  - CYP beginning to misuse substances

- Health & wellbeing**
  - Family relationship difficulties
  - Carers with ill health or terminal illness
  - Slow in reaching developmental milestones, including poor or delayed speech
  - Refusal to register with a GP
  - Non-attendance at health appointments which re impacting on the health of the CYP
  - Deteriorating mental health
  - Very frequently significant illness and infections/minor/ health/injuries and problems – frequently and unnecessarily accessing health services
  - CYP for whom there are emotional/physical/ behavioural/mental health concerns
  - Early signs of self-harming behaviour
  - Delayed speech or language/ poor concentration
  - Escalating experimentation with substances/drugs/alcohol
  - Parents/carers with mental health issues impacting on ability to parent
  - Hygiene and self-care needs struggling to be met

- Health & wellbeing**
  - Substance misuse which has health implications for the child and is detrimental to their development
  - Mental Health/severe bouts of depression/self harm/threats of suicide
  - Risky sexual activity (child/ young person)
  - Complex medical needs and/or disability
  - Severe child obesity or malnourishment
  - Non-attendance at essential medical appointments
  - Basic care needs are rarely being met
  - Serious lack of stability and routine appropriate stimulation, boundaries and guidance
  - Complex or multiple health issues being met via a variety of health professionals
- Family & environment**
  - Challenging/disruptive behaviour putting others or self in danger. Regularly involved in criminal/anti-social behaviour
  - Evidence or risk of CSE/abuse
  - Inadequate supervision/ inappropriate care arrangements

- Health & wellbeing**
  - Substance misuse which has chronic health implications for the child and is detrimental to their development
  - Life threatening and severe chronic physical and/or mental health problems for which appropriate treatment is not being sought
  - Regularly unfed/signs of malnutrition evident/complete rejection by parents
  - At risk of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
  - Children and young people whose parents fabricate or induce illness
  - Suspected non accidental injury
- Family & environment**
  - Evidence or risk of CSE/abuse.
  - Suffering or at risk of suffering physical, emotional or sexual abuse
  - Children whose basic needs are persistently neglected
  - CYP assessed as high risk either to themselves or others and early intervention has not made a difference
  - Child is left to care for themselves although they are not able

- CYP achieving educational milestones
- CYP appear happy/good level of emotional literacy
- Good level of self-esteem and confidence

**Contribute & engage**

- Confident in social setting
- Experiences success and achievement
- Positive role models
- Good relationships with employer
- Planned progression beyond statutory education
- Access to learning resources
- Parents are able to offer stability
- Parents are economically active
- Access to appropriate family supports.
- Suitable accommodation
- Reasonable income, being used appropriately to meet needs
- Good access to services
- Effective support networks

- CYP engaging in low level offending or anti-social behaviour
- CYP who have started going missing/absent from home/at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- Families where concerns are beginning to emerge about substance misuse

**Education & identify**

- Fixed term exclusion/irregular attendance and CYP starting to have significant unauthorised absence from school/nursery
- Below education levels/not meeting milestones
- CYP may require a differentiated approach to education, additional/different from their peers
- Not in education, training or employment (NEET) – less than six weeks
- Has isolated or unsupported carer
- High number of children or more than two under 5
- Periods of unemployment/low income may effect the wider family unit
- Inadequate poor housing/home conditions due to overcrowding, lack of heating or structure

**Contribute and Engage**

- Young carers
- Some difficulties in building/sustaining relationships with peers and adults.
- Limited access to age appropriate leisure facilities and/or quality education including nursery
- CYP refusing to go to school, being bullied or demonstrating bullying behaviours
- CYP presenting increasing problem behaviour where parents and/or school are finding it difficult to manage.

- Eating disorders impacting on development and health
- Pregnant aged 16 years or under
- Inability of parents to be warm and affectionate

**Family & Environment**

- CYPE entered the Criminal Justice System at pre-conviction stage e.g. has received an Out of Court Disposal
- Increasing risk of vulnerability to CSE/sexual activity/teenage pregnancy/risk of radicalisation
- Difficulty coping with anger, frustration and upset
- At imminent risk of eviction through non-payment of rent/utilities
- Families where there are concerns about Domestic Abuse

**Education & identity**

- Challenging and disruptive behaviour impacting on daily life, achievements and relationships
- Low income/periods of unemployment affects significantly the wider family unit
- Not in education, employment or training (NEET) – more than 6 weeks
- Irregular attendance and CYP starting to have some significant unauthorised absence from school/nursery/college

**Contribute & engage**

- Disruptive/challenging behaviour by parent or child
- Poor stimulation, boundaries or guidance
- Starting of offend/reoffend
- Significant impact on not engaging in speech or language support

- At risk of sexual exploitation
- Sexually active under 13 years
- Young/inexperienced parents with no support
- Repeated incident of domestic abuse having an emotional impact on children
- Parents/carers have significant Learning Disability which may be impacting on their parenting
- Children who disappear or are missing from home regularly/for a long period

**Education & Identity**

- Repeated permanent school exclusion
- School exclusion with other risk factors
- Will require specialist educational provision/resources either within mainstream/special school
- Young person is unable to cope with everyday life (including employment)

**Contribute & engage**

- Significant impact on not engaging with speech and language support
- Subject to frequent harassment/hostility/at risk of radicalisation
- Financial difficulties preventing CYP basic needs being met
- Out of control in the community
- Prosecution for adult offences resulting in court orders

- Person identified as posing a risk to children living in the home
- Children subject to a CP Plan
- Child previously removed from parents
- Destructive involvement from extended family
- Family is experiencing serious domestic violence
- Dangerous house or accommodation which places child in danger
- Children who abuse other children
- Children at risk of forced marriage/honour based abuse
- Parents/carers have significant learning disability which impacts on their parenting ability

**Education & identity**

- Denied access to stimulation
- Prosecution of offences resulting in court orders (sexual or violent)
- Subject to proceedings in family courts
- Homeless and not eligible for temporary housing
- Family not entitled to benefits with no means of other support/extreme financial difficulties
- CYP is an Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Child (UASC)

**Contribute & engage**

- Child subject to emotional abuse with no self-esteem/sense of worth

Universal Services/  
Universal Services  
Plus

Emerging Needs/  
Universal Plus

Targeted Needs/  
Universal Partnership

Intensive Family  
Support

Safeguarding and  
Specialist

## SERVICE EXAMPLES

- Families First Portal
- Early Years
- Education
- Primary health care
- Community health care
- Schools
- Voluntary Services

- School Family Workers
- School nurses
- Schools
- Health Visitors
- Children's Centres
- Integrated services for Learners
- Youth Connexions
- Short breaks for disabled children/Preparation for adulthood
- Voluntary and Community Services

- School Family Workers
- Children's centres/outreach workers
- Health visitors
- Targeted Youth Support Services
- Youth Justice Service
- Youth Connexions
- Intensive Families First Support Teams
- CAMHS (step 2)
- Adolescent Drug and alcohol Services Hertfordshire (ADASH)
- Adolescent Resource Centre
- Short breaks for disabled children/Preparation for adulthood
- Integrated services for Learners
- Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) Services
- Voluntary and Community Services

- Intensive Family First Support Teams
- Targeted Youth support
- Youth Justice Service
- CAMH's
- HPFT

- Multi Agency safeguarding hub
- Assessment Teams
- Joint Child Protection Investigation Team
- Family Safeguarding Service
- 0-25 Together

## OUTCOMES

Children and young people make good progress in most areas of development and Universal Services meet all of their needs

The life chances of children and families will be improved by offering short term additional support

Children and Families have additional needs and are supported by appropriate and coordinated services through a team around the family in the medium term

Children and families have a range of complex needs which require intensive family support through the Troubled Families programme. They will have a lead keyworker coordinating support from multi-agency partners over a longer period of time 9-12mths

Children are at risk of significant harm or impairment and require specialist statutory intervention