



Children’s Social Care Thresholds

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Universal	Vulnerable	Complex	Acute
All children within St Helena and who are routinely in receipt of community services.	Disadvantaged children who would benefit from extra help – to make the best life chances. Services operating at a preventative level.	Children whose vulnerability is such that they are unlikely to reach or maintain a satisfactory level of health or development.	Children at risk of significant harm/or has suffered abuse and for whom there is continued risk.

Case examples of circumstances and key features within a family:

Universal

Achieving learning goals, good school attendance, meeting developmental milestones, socially interactive, supportive family and relationships, housed, good diet and healthy, access to positive activities, protected by parents, secure and caring home, appropriate boundaries and sufficient income.

Vulnerable

Low level school absence, language/communication difficulties, potential for NEET (not in education, employment or training), early offending, early signs of substance misuse/poor mental health, low self-esteem, poor child/parent relationship, bullying, poor housing, overcrowding, low income, socially excluded, inconsistent care arrangements, poor supervision by parents, inconsistent parenting, poor response to emerging needs, historic content of parents own poor experience of childhood.

Complex

Permanent exclusion/NEET, persistent absence, disability affecting access in mainstream services, chronic health issues, regular missed appointments, teenage pregnancy, sexually inappropriate behaviour, at risk of entering criminal justice system, diagnosed mental health issues/alcohol/substance misuse, anti-social behaviour, ongoing domestic abuse, poor attachment, parents learning disabled which affects their parenting, inconsistent parenting affecting child.

Acute

Chronic persistence absence, sexually explicit behaviour, offending/re-offending, complex and poor mental health, teenage pregnancy, sexual exploitation, high risk domestic abuse, frequent missing from home, ongoing high level of neglect, suspicion of child abuse, homeless child/young person, edge of care, inability to provide consistent or appropriate parenting.

Level 4

Children at risk of significant harm/or has suffered abuse and for whom there is a continued risk.

Child in household where parents/carers have mental health, substance dependency or domestic abuse issues which put child at risk of significant harm. Persons identified as posing a risk to child identified as living in the house. The child's life is endangered. There is evidence of serious or significant injury or illness. The possibility of non-accidental injury. Evidence of gross neglect. Children who are persistently missing from home and who find themselves at significant risk. Actually homeless. Unsanitary or dangerous home conditions. Sexual exploitation and/or abuse. Serious injury/harm/abuse to self or other. Significant behaviours that challenge. A child abandoned. Life threatening drug abuse. Trafficked child. Risk of long-term psychological damage/deprivation. Significant impairment of physical/emotional development. Damaging history of separations. Children at risk of forced marriage, female genital mutilation, breast ironing/flattening and honour based violence. Child on child abuse.

Level 3

Children whose vulnerability is such that they are unlikely to reach or maintain a satisfactory level of health or development.

Children with disabilities. Children with high level needs whose parents, for whatever reason, are unable to meet those needs. Children from families where there has been one serious or several significant instances of domestic abuse. Children who have been subject to a child protection plan, or who have been previously looked after where there are new/further concerns. Children with high level/unassessed needs whose parents have a history of non-engagement with services, or fail to recognise concerns of professionals. Pregnant women where the safety of the unborn child might be compromised. Children in families experiencing a crisis that is likely to result in a breakdown of care arrangements. Persistent and serious offending. Unaccompanied asylum seekers. Children who are persistently going missing from home. Children with a significant and/or behavioural disorder. Young carers. Children with chronic absence from school. Children with chronic ill health/terminal illness. Children involved in substance misuse. Child in household where parenting is compromised as a consequence of parental discord, mental health, substance misuse or domestic abuse, although child's needs are not at a high level. Children and young people involved in acrimonious contact/residence disputes. Children who are experiencing adverse effects from bullying.

Level 2

Disadvantage children who would benefit from extra help – to make the best life chances. Services operating at a preventative level.

Children in families without stable/permanent accommodation or in unsatisfactory accommodation. Parents unable to meet some aspects of health or development; poor health; poor school attendance. Inappropriate age related behaviour, which is difficult to handle. Inhibited/restricted opportunities in own home and community. Demands of caring for another person undermining aspects of health and development. Poor standard of physical care or health causing concern; unhealthy diet. Absence or insufficient stimulation to achieve full potential; no opportunities to play with other children; experiencing difficulties in relationship with peers. Scape-goating or victimisation causing emotional harm including continual/regular periods of stress, conflict, tension causing instability and insecurity in relationships. Relationships strained; normal health and development constrained by environmental circumstances and/or limited play opportunities.

Level 1

All children within St Helena and who are routinely in receipt of community services.