

Multi-Agency Threshold Guidance

What is a Threshold? 1

The multi-agency Threshold Guidance document is a practical tool to enable practitioners to identify the level of need for a child, young person and their family. This supports them to have access to appropriate, proportionate and timely level of support according to their changing circumstances.

Why should we have guidance? 2

Working Together (2018) confirms that the safeguarding partners should publish a threshold document, which sets out the local criteria for action. In a way that is transparent, accessible and easily understood; and provides a common language for multi-agency professionals to improve outcomes for children and families in Berkshire West.

What are the Levels of Need? 7

- **Level 1:** Help for everyone met by universal services
- **Level 2:** Additional Help
- **Level 3:** Intensive Help
- **Level 4:** Specialist Help

Go straight to level 4 if there is risk of significant harm

Our framework follows the 'windscreen' model (see P2) To assist practitioners and managers in assessing and identifying the risk and protective factors for the child's individual unique situation and levels of need.

7 MINUTE BRIEFING



Level of Need Indicators 3

These help to build a picture of the need for support and must be considered with careful professional judgement or advice from the safeguarding lead. Look at the risk factors but also the protective factors in a family.

Continuum of Need The terms 'step up' and 'step down' are commonly used to describe children moving between levels of need, so the response will need to be flexible.

Thresholds describe entry points across the range and scale of children's need that will lead to a response or intervention, to meet that need.

Applying the Thresholds in Practice 6

All practitioners will refer to this document and be familiar with its contents, to effectively consider the child's needs as a whole, and work with the child and the family in order to arrive at the right conclusion about what services the child might need.

The Threshold document is not an assessment tool and does not replace any professional judgement and should be treated as a guide to assist in decision making.

What to do: 5

- Identify the child's needs early
- Keep the child's welfare and safety central
- Listen to their views
- Discuss any concerns with the child and family
- Gain consent and agreement where possible with the family unless to do so would place a child at increased risk of harm.

Escalation/Professional Disagreement 4

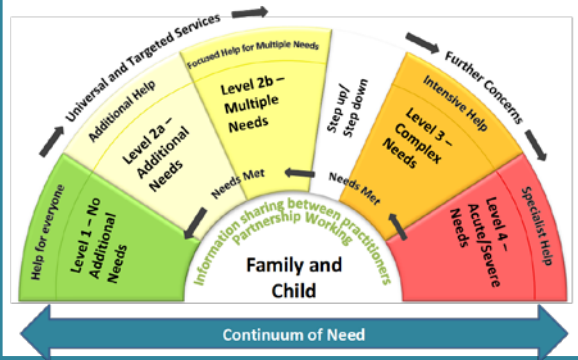
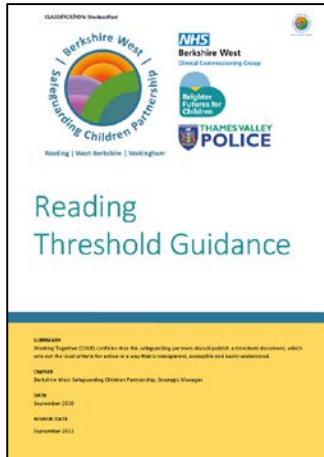
Ensuring the safety and wellbeing of children is paramount. Differences of opinion relating to the level of risk will exist and are an expected part of quality practice. Professionals are expected to discuss these differences in a professional and productive manner and be able to resolve difficulties within and between agencies quickly and openly by following the Pan Berkshire Policy & Procedures.

Link [Solving Professional Disagreement](#)

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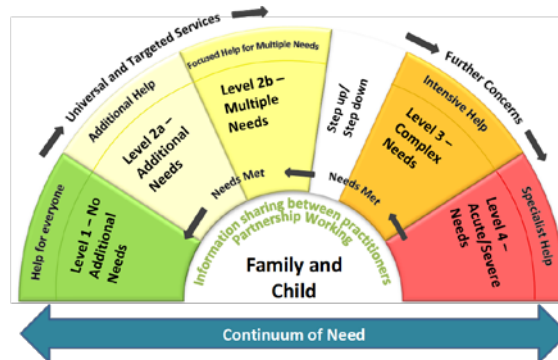
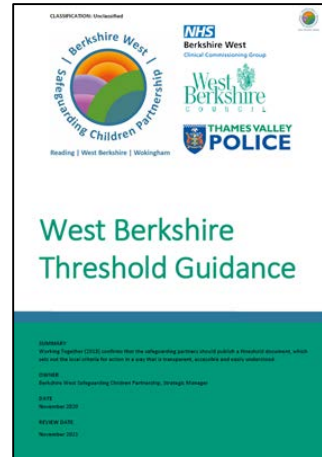
Reading, West Berkshire and Wokingham have similar but individual threshold guidance and referral processes - follow the links below for local information

Reading



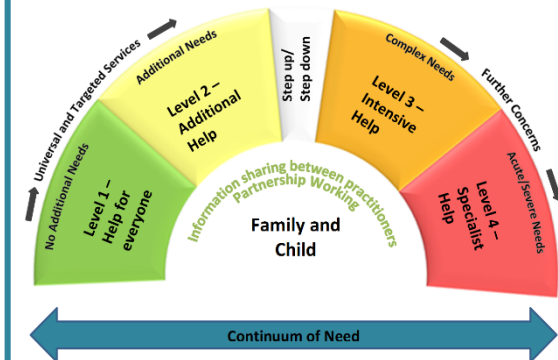
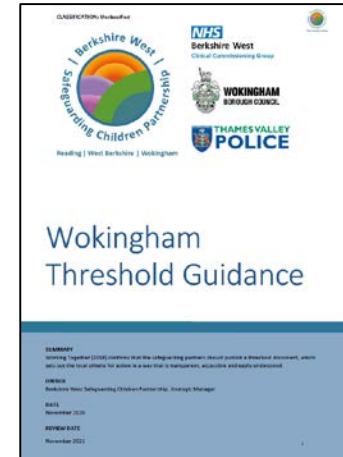
[LINK to Reading Threshold Guidance Page](#)

West Berkshire



[LINK to West Berkshire Threshold Guidance Page](#)

Wokingham



[LINK to Wokingham Threshold Guidance Page](#)

Visit the Berkshire West safeguarding Children Partnership website for more information

<https://www.berkshirewestsafeguardingchildrenpartnership.org.uk/scp>