



Title: Section 3.1 - Common Assessment Framework and Common Processes for Stockport

Policy Summary

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Supporting Documents

Quality Assurance

Reviewed every 2 years.

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SECTION 3: EARLY INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION

3.1 COMMON ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK AND COMMON PROCESSES FOR STOCKPORT

TEAM AROUND THE CHILD PROCESS

Stockport's Team Around the Child process (formerly known as 'Child In Need') has been developed to provide a consistent approach for people working with children, who are vulnerable, including children with disabilities, children who may require support for a variety of reasons – but do not meet the threshold for intervention by Children's Social Care.

The underlying principles of the model are:

- The child's needs must come first
- The child's welfare is everybody's responsibility
- All organisations must work together
- The parents and carers rights must be considered
- The family should always be present at a 'Team Around the Child' Meeting

The process has been broken down into stages, which correspond to the 4 levels outlined in the Triangle Model. The Team Around the Child process is focused on early intervention and is part of the Safeguarding continuum, with Child Protection being at the extreme end of the scale.

Level 1 - Universal

Children at the 'universal' level will access mainstream resources. This level relates to **all** children. This is the majority of children who access routine community resources, have routine healthcare and access education.

Action you may take:

If an organisation identifies a worry or concern about a child – and the child's needs can be met within the single agency, then the child remains at 'level 1' with progress being monitored by internal mechanisms. A Common Assessment Framework form may be completed.

Level 2 – Need for Support

Children are described at this level if they are living with parents/carers who are under stress or in circumstances which may affect their health and development.

Action you may take:

Assess what the child's needs are using a Common Assessment Framework form if the child/young persons needs cannot be met within your own agency and requires the support of additional services then convene a Team Around the Child Meeting in partnership with the family to co-ordinate assistance from other organisations and resources and develop a holistic plan.

Level 3 – Need for Prevention

Children at level 3 are those children whose health or development is being severely affected by circumstances surrounding them.

Action you may take:

If a child has moved to this level and has undergone intervention by organisations at level 2, Children's Social Care should be invited to attend a Team Around the Child Meeting to provide advice and information where a decision will be made as to whether further assessment is required. At this point Children's Social Care may assume responsibility for convening and chairing further Team Around the Child Meetings.

Level 4 – Need for Protection

Children at this level are experiencing significant harm or are likely to suffer significant harm if circumstances do not change.

Action you must take

Refer to Children's Social Care who will begin assessments and undertake a Section 47 enquiry (Child Protection).

Please refer to the [Common Assessment Framework, Lead Practitioner and Team Around the Child Practice Guidance](#) for further information about the Team Around the Child procedure.

<http://www.stockport.gov.uk/commonprocesses>

Whenever a Common Assessment Framework form is completed a copy should be sent to the Common Processes Team at Sanderling (for monitoring purposes only). Fax no: 0161 419 0654.

In Child Protection cases parental consent is not required.

If you are unclear about the level of intervention the Common Processes Team are available to provide advice and support. Telephone: 0161 474 5654.

Stockport's Common Processes Model



