

Service:	Children and Young People's Services
Title:	Links between CAF and CIN procedures and Safeguarding procedures - Children in Need
Manual:	Children in Need
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ABBREVIATIONS

S&SS	Safeguarding and Specialist Services
preCAF	screening activity carried out prior to a CAF assessment
CAF	Common Assessment Framework
TAC	Team Around the Child

INTRODUCTION

In order to ensure children and young people get the services they need at the right time it is essential for workers in all agencies involved with children and young people to understand how the needs of children are met, and how they link with the services available to help. The aim for any child is to ensure they grow up with a sense of wellbeing and purpose. These aims are detailed in the policies of 'Every Child Matters in County Durham'.

A small proportion of children have significant complex needs which require the involvement of Safeguarding and Specialist Services. The great majority of children never need any additional services. Of those that do, the Common Assessment Framework is being implemented in County Durham to ensure their well-being is maximised and services are coordinated at the earliest opportunity so as to minimise intervention and ensure maximum effectiveness.

RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the responsibility of representatives of all agencies to be familiar with the CiN procedure and their role within it. The CiN procedures are published on the Durham LSCB website <http://durham-lscb.gov.uk/>

The purpose of intervention for any child or young person is to help them achieve 'well-being' as described by the 5 ECM outcomes. This is the explicit aim for all young people in County Durham.

It follows that all workers in all agencies have a responsibility, at any level of need; to assist families, parents and young people and help them access any service that may be appropriate and will be of positive benefit for them.

All referrals should be made with the consent and knowledge of the family, and ideally, of the child/young person concerned.

UNIVERSAL SERVICES

All children receive services.

Those to which children and young people are entitled and which all children receive are called *universal services*. Key universal services include primary health care services, early years services and schools.

Most children grow up without ever needing additional services.

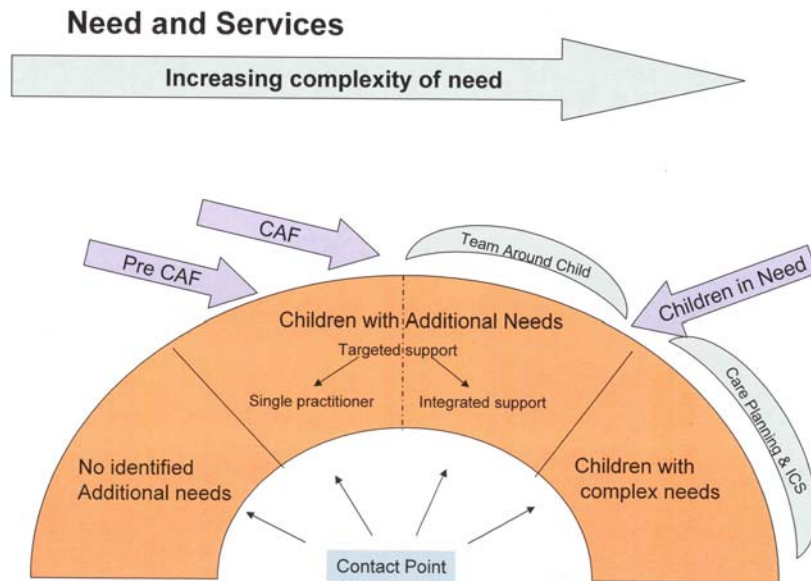
TARGETED SERVICES/ADDITIONAL SERVICES

Some children and young people may require additional services in order to achieve the 5 Outcomes. These additional services may be short or longer term, and the need may arise at any stage of their development up to age 18.

These additional services may be provided within a single agency, in which case there is no need for any inter-agency action or a Team Around the Child.

Children and young people may access these additional services once, repeatedly during their development, or not at all.

This is illustrated through the Windscreen Wiper Model.



ADDITIONAL SERVICES WITH MORE THAN ONE AGENCY (Team Around the Child)

In some situations the additional needs of children will require more than one agency.

Action needs to be coordinated, in order to avoid duplication of assessment, to reduce overlap of services and to provide a coherent service. This is the point at which the involved worker should consider a CAF assessment. Practitioners should refer to Common Assessment Framework in County Durham - [Practitioner Guidance](#).

A *pre-CAF assessment* may be undertaken to confirm whether a CAF assessment is likely to be useful.

Three criteria for considering CAF are:

- The worker or parent/carer is concerned about the progress of the child or young person
- The child or young person's needs are unclear.
- The support of more than one agency appears to be required.

CAF

If a CAF assessment is carried out, and if it results in the need for an integrated response being confirmed, the following actions should take place:

- Convene a Team Around the Child
- Appoint a Lead Professional to take responsibility as a central contact point, and to make sure the plans are carried through.
- Agree an Action Plan
- Review progress at regular (6 weekly) intervals.

These actions need to take place with the consent and involvement of the parent/carer and the child or young person. No CAF assessment can take place without such agreement and involvement at all stages of the process.

However, if a child's or young person's needs continue to be unmet, in spite of attempts to work in partnership, the worker may wish to consider alternative courses of action.

If at any point there are concerns about safeguarding, practitioners should consult the [LSCB Safeguarding Procedures](#) and take action in accordance with those procedures.

SPECIALIST SERVICES

'Children in Need' Definition

A 'Child in Need' has a very specific meaning as defined by the 1989 Children Act.

The Local Authority generally, and the Children and Young People's service, Safeguarding and Specialist Service in particular, has statutory responsibilities regarding 'Children in Need'.

Any worker or parent can make a referral if they believe a child may be in need, and a child or young person can self refer.

However Safeguarding and Specialist Services will apply eligibility criteria before undertaking an Initial Assessment of need.

In brief, children who may be eligible for an assessment include:

- Children with a disability
- Children who may be in need of protection
- Children who are unlikely to achieve or maintain a reasonable standard of health or development without the provision of services
- Children whose health or development is likely to be significantly impaired without the provision of services

SOCIAL CARE DIRECT

The referral point for Safeguarding & Specialist Services.

All referrals for potential 'Children in Need' as defined by the 1989 Children Act should be made to 'Social Care Direct'.

Following a CAF Assessment and preferably following interventions delivered by the Team Around the Child, if the TAC continue to have concerns that the child is not achieving good outcomes, then the Lead Professional should make the referral to Social Care Direct Contact number is: 0845 8505010

Social Care Direct will, in discussion with the Lead Professional, assess whether the referral meets the CIN criteria. If so, the referral will progress to the IAT who will make contact with the Lead Professional and carry out a joint Initial Assessment with them within 7 days. If the family require the involvement of SaSS a Social Worker will be appointed and will join the TAC. At this stage the Social Worker will become the Lead Professional for the family for the duration of time the family remains within CIN. The make up of the Team Around the Child will be reviewed at this point to take account of the SaSS Core Assessment to ensure the family has all relevant and necessary support available and co-ordinated. The Action Plan will be reviewed and agreed.

If Social Care Direct consider the referral does not meet CIN eligibility, then they will provide advice and guidance to the Lead Professional and the Team Around the Child will continue to work to address the child's needs.

If the level of need is serious, then the case will fall within Safeguarding processes and a Core Group will be convened which may include partners that have been involved in the TAC.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

For Safeguarding & Specialist Services for Children in Need.

Refer to Eligibility Guidance – Children in Need (CIN/009)