

01 Background



The Lancashire Continuum of need (Continuum of Need) changed in July 2016. If you attended one of the launch events in July, you will already know this. If not, read on!

Following the Ofsted inspection in 2015, it became clear that the thresholds and assessment models in Lancashire needed to be reviewed, so the renewed CoN is part of the work to improve services in Lancashire as well as part of a response to the changes in professional environment we find ourselves in. It is also good practice to review models regularly.

It is hoped that the levels will be simpler to understand and that the issues which existed in the previous CoN can be alleviated by the involvement of social workers at level 3.

Why it matters 02



The intention behind the new CoN is

- To provide clarity, help and guidance for professionals
- To allow them to identify the levels of risk and needs in children and families they work with
- To support practitioners in determining how best to support children and their families
- To provide a common language for professionals, thus helping multi-agency communication

This new CoN complements the new risk sensible model and understanding of risk which is now being used in Children's Social Care.

07 Questions

How does the new 'continuum of need' impact on my practice?

Do I need to change anything in my practice as a result of this?

How will this impact on my multi-agency work/communication?



06 What to do

Read and understand the guidance
Share the guidance with your wider networks
Use the new guidance when working with multi-agency colleagues

If you have difficulties or doubts about this, go to your safeguarding lead.

Consider the whole network around the child. Think family!

The thresholds **guidance** is important. Read carefully. It has changed! Detailed guidance can be found here: [Thresholds Guidance](#)



05

03 Information



The CoN has four levels:

- Level 1: Universal Need.** This means that needs and risks are met through universal services
- Level 2: Evidence of some unmet needs and low risk.** Children at this level

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should have their needs met through targeted services via CAF and TAF

Level 3: Children in Need. This meets section 17 of the Children Act 1989, and is a higher levels of unmet needs and medium risk. At this level, a social worker will be involved

Level 4, Child Protection. This means significant unmet needs and high risk

Children can move up and down through the levels depending on need. They can go straight to level 4 if needed,

