

## Appendix 2

### Children safeguarding – Professional practice guidance

If you receive a disclosure or have concerns about the impact of hoarding upon children, establish what support is already in place for the family and consider what additional support your organisation can offer. Following review of the threshold guidance/levels below, progress a plan of support for the family in liaison with the professionals already working with the family. Information sharing with parental consent is required and therefore a conversation with the parent/carer about your concerns will be necessary, and their consent obtained to share information with relevant professionals i.e. school, health visitor etc. If you believe the concerns amount to the potential need for children's social care involvement, speak with your designated/named safeguarding lead within your organisation. The Safeguarding Lead will consider further actions required referring to the threshold level below, including consultation with the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 0300 4560 1008 to discuss if a referral should be submitted (again with parental consent). If consent is not given by parents and you have child protection concerns then you must seek further advice from your safeguarding lead and MASH as necessary.

**Level 1 – Universal:** Children, young people and families whose needs are met by universal services and are thriving.

**Level 2a – Additional Need:** Children, young people and families who have a specific unmet need and may be in need of early support. Consult with family and relevant agencies and consider completion of a Common Assessment (Early Help CAF - Common Assessment Framework) and Team around the Child meetings (CAF Helpline 01225 713884).

**Level 2b – Multiple and/or emerging needs:** Children, young people and families who have multiple unmet needs and/or are showing early signs of emerging needs that are in need of collaborative, targeted early support (i.e. a multi-agency response). Consult with family and relevant agencies and consider completion of a Common Assessment (Early Help CAF) and Team around the Child meetings (CAF Helpline 01225 713884). For cases where a CAF has already been completed and is not effecting change, consult with the MASH to consider a referral for a family key worker within the Support and Safeguarding Service.

**Level 3 – Complex Needs:** Children, young people and families are struggling to cope and need a coordinated intensive response to multiple needs. They are experiencing sustained and persistent issues or problems that have not been possible to resolve at previous levels. Children and young people at this level may need a statutory/specialist assessment or intervention (e.g. from social care or child and adolescent mental health services). Contact the MASH to discuss making a referral.

**Level 4 – Acute/Severe Needs:** These children, young people and families are not coping and need specialist statutory intervention and/or child protection. There will be serious concerns about the child/young person's health, care or development including risk of or actual significant harm. Apply this level if there is a risk of significant harm to the child. Contact the MASH to discuss making a referral.