

Early support services by threshold

This diagram shows services available under each of the thresholds.

	Family Support Service		
	Families in Need Specialist Service		
	Youth Service, Hub and Wish Teams		
		Offending Prevention	
		Family Intervention	
		Troubled Families	
			Edge of Care
	Hub		
	Wish		
	Targeted Youth		
	Offending Prevention		
		Connexions	
	Children's Centres		
Level 1 Universal	Level 2 Vulnerable	Level 3 Complex	Level 4 Acute

How can you help?

There is a huge commitment across Blackpool to ensuring that our Children and Families are kept safe and have the opportunity to thrive, we can only achieve this when we all recognise and take responsibility for our part in this.

Everyone has a role to play. Do you know what your role is?

If not please contact Blackpool Council's Organisation and Workforce Development team for training information via owd@blackpool.gov.uk

Alternatively, speak to your manager, supervisor or someone with experience. Many agencies also have nominated 'Getting it Right' champions who are there to give extra support to people working through the 'Getting it Right' process in their own service. Please ask in your own service who the GIR Champion is - if there isn't one please volunteer to become one!

Getting it right for every Blackpool Child and Family is everybody's business. Make it yours now.

To ensure our services are accessible to all, documents prepared by Blackpool Council are available in large print, Braille, on audio-cassette or computer disk upon request.

We can also provide help for British Sign Language users and provide information in other languages. Please ask for details or telephone 477477.

Getting it right for every child and family in Blackpool



What can you do?

Blackpool Council



Blackpool Safeguarding
Children Board

What is “Getting it right” all about?

Blackpool’s strategy of support for Children, Young People and Families is called “Getting it Right for every Blackpool Child and Family”.

This leaflet sets out how the strategy works in practice and how the work you do fits in. It is designed to help everyone who works with children and families in Blackpool in their work, and to ensure families get the **right** support at the **right** time.

All agencies that help children and families in Blackpool are signed up to a set of principles.

The most important principle is to offer help to children and families who need it at the **earliest** possible stage. We call this “early intervention”.

It is vital that we all offer support to children and families at the earliest stage. Addressing these issues early gives us the best possible chance to tackle the problems and help create long term solutions.

We have developed a continuous assessment for professionals to gather information on the whole family and to support the process of creating a whole family action plan. This is supported by clear safeguarding thresholds of what to look for when assessing whether a Child or Family is in need of help.

Every agency has signed up to the ‘Getting it Right’ principles; this means that all professionals should be working through the continuous assessment process to engage with children and families at an early stage and understand when they might need to access additional support.

This, and all other information about ‘Getting it Right’ in Blackpool, is available online at www.blackpool.fsd.org.uk/gettingitright

Thresholds

There are four thresholds, each describing some of the main characteristics and features of a child or family.

Level 1 – Universal

All children within Blackpool and who are routinely in receipt of community services, including universal education and health services.

Achieving learning goals, good attendance, meeting development milestones, socially interactive, supportive family and relationships, housed, good diet and healthy, access to positive activities, protected by parents, secure and caring home, appropriate boundaries.

Level 2 – Vulnerable

Disadvantaged children who would benefit from extra help - to improve their life chances; these services operate at a preventative level.

Low level school absence, language/communication difficulties, potential for NEET, early offending, early signs substance misuse/ poor mental health, low self-esteem, poor child/parent relationship, bullying, poor housing, low income, inconsistent care arrangements, poor supervision by parents, inconsistent parenting, poor response to emerging needs, historic content of parents own poor experience of childhood.

Level 3 – Complex

Children whose vulnerability is such that they are unlikely to reach or maintain a satisfactory level of health or development.

Permanent exclusion/NEET, persistent absence, disability affecting access in mainstream services, chronic health issues, regular missed appointments, teenage pregnancy, sexually inappropriate behaviour, at risk of entering criminal justice system, diagnosed mental health issues/alcohol/substance misuse, anti-social behaviour, ongoing domestic abuse, poor attachment, overcrowding, socially excluded, parents learning disabled which affects their parenting, inconsistent parenting affecting child.

Level 4 – Acute

Children who are at risk of significant harm / or have suffered abuse and for whom there is continued risk.

Chronic persistent absence, sexually explicit behaviour, offending/re-offending, complex and poor mental health, teenage pregnancy, sexual exploitation, high risk domestic abuse, frequent missing from home, ongoing high level neglect, suspicion of child abuse, homeless child, edge of care, inability to provide consistent or appropriate parenting.

A wide range of services with a shared responsibility

The majority of agencies provide support to families with needs that would be classified as level 1 (universal), level 2 (vulnerable) and level 3 (complex).

In practice level 1 could mean services such as a Children’s Centre offering parenting advice and assistance to parents, or a health visitor making routine checks with a new family.

Level 2 is more targeted, to deal with a specific problem. This could be a speech therapist assisting a child with language development issues, or a school working to tackle occasional absence.

Level 3 requires one Key Worker to co-ordinate support for the whole family, usually involving a range of services. Where professionals and families agree that additional support is needed that cannot be met by existing support the single continuous assessment can be shared with the Children’s Referral Service (CRS), who will identify an appropriate service to offer additional support. The CRS can be contacted on 01253 477299 for further advice.

Spotting problems at the earliest stage and getting the right support at the right time can stop a problem from escalating. This can only be achieved when all agencies are actively sharing information and sharing responsibility for the part they can play in improving things for our Children and Families.

In some cases, where a child is identified as being at risk of significant harm (level 4), an immediate response is required, in this instance safeguarding procedures should be followed as detailed on Blackpool Safeguarding Board Website www.blackpollscb.org.uk