



**Level 1  
UNIVERSAL**

Children who make good overall progress in most areas of development and receive appropriate universal services such as healthcare and education

**Level 2  
ADDITIONAL**

Children whose needs require some extra support, most likely provided by universal services or a targeted service.

**Level 3  
EARLY HELP  
TARGETED  
INTERVENTION**

Children whose needs are more complex and require a more targeted intervention. Lead Professional and Team Around the Family approach often used.

**Level 4**

**CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE**

Children whose needs are complex and enduring and are at risk of significant harm or impairment

Start with a  
**EHA**

Attach EHA to  
**MARF**  
send to MASH

**CFA**  
will be  
done

**Effective Support  
'Windscreen'**

**If unsure, consult**  
If you are concerned about the welfare of a child then contact the MK MASH on 01908 253169  
**Call 999 if an immediate risk**

When children aren't meeting all their outcomes The Early Help Assessment (EHA) must be used to assess and plan for the child's needs. A Team Around the Family (TAF) or professionals meeting may be required to support the development of the EHA.

If a child's situation has not improved despite early help support and intervention delivered through the EHA, or to have a child's needs assessed, complete a Multi Agency Referral Form (MARF) and send it to the MASH. A copy of the EHA will be required to assist with a decision about what extra support might be needed, which could be support from the Targeted Early Help Team or Children's Social Care.

At all times if you become concerned that a child may be at risk of immediate harm then you should contact MASH for advice. MASH will determine whether there is a need for a Statutory Assessment. This could lead to a referral to the Targeted Early Help Team, a child being made subject to a Child in Need plan, be made subject to a Child Protection Plan or become a Looked After Child.



# Level 4

**CHILDREN SOCIAL CARE:** At all times if you become concerned that a child may be at risk of immediate harm then you should contact the MASH for advice. This could lead to a child being referred to the Targeted Early Help Team (Children and Families Practice) or be made subject to a Child In Need, Child Protection or Looked After Child Plan for intensive targeted interventions.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE BABY OR CHILD		
<p><b>Health</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child/young person has severe/chronic health problems</li> <li>• Child/young person's weight and height causing significant concern</li> <li>• Other developmental milestones unlikely to be met; failure to thrive</li> <li>• Lack of food may be linked with neglect</li> <li>• Refusing medical care endangering life/development</li> <li>• Seriously obese</li> </ul>	<p><b>Health</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dental decay and no access to treatment</li> <li>• Persistent and high-risk substance misuse</li> <li>• Dangerous sexual activity and/or early teenage pregnancy</li> <li>• Child sexual/criminal exploitation</li> <li>• Suspected imminent risk of FGM (female genital mutilation)</li> <li>• Sexual abuse</li> <li>• Non-accidental injury</li> </ul>	<p><b>Health</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acute mental health problems e.g., severe depression, threat of suicide, psychotic episode</li> <li>• Disclosure of abuse from child/young person</li> <li>• Evidence of significant harm or neglect</li> <li>• Disclosure of abuse/physical injury caused by a professional</li> <li>• Physical learning disability requiring constant supervision</li> </ul>
<p><b>Behavioural Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cannot maintain peer relationships e.g., is aggressive, bully, bullied</li> <li>• Regularly involved in anti-social/criminal activities</li> <li>• Prosecution of offences resulting in court orders, custodial sentences, ASBOs</li> <li>• Professional concerns but difficulty accessing child/young person</li> <li>• Unaccompanied refugee/asylum seeker</li> <li>• Privately fostered</li> <li>• Abusing other children</li> <li>• Young sex offenders</li> </ul>	<p><b>Identity and self-esteem</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child/young person experiences persistent discrimination; internalised and reflected in poor self-image</li> <li>• Failed Education Supervision Order – three prosecutions for non-attendance: family refusing to engage</li> <li>• Victim of crime; may fear persecution by others</li> <li>• Child/young person likely to put self at risk</li> </ul>	<p><b>Family and social relationships</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relationships with family experienced as negative ('low warmth, high criticism')</li> <li>• Rejection by a parent/carer; family no longer want to care for - or have abandoned -child/young person</li> <li>• Periods accommodated by Local Authority</li> <li>• Subject to physical, emotional or sexual abuse or neglect</li> <li>• Suspected imminent risk of FGM (female genital mutilation)</li> <li>• Suspected imminent risk of forced marriage</li> <li>• Suspected imminent risk of honour-based violence</li> <li>• Suspected imminent risk of radicalisation</li> </ul>
<p><b>Self-care skills and independence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Severe disability – child/young person relies totally on other people to meet care needs</li> <li>• Child neglects to use self-care skills due to alternative priorities, e.g., substance misuse</li> </ul>	<p><b>Learning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Puts self or others at risk through behaviour</li> <li>• Child/young person is being refused access to an educational provision</li> </ul>	<p><b>Emotional development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children who disappear or are missing from home regularly for a long period of time</li> <li>• Severe emotional behavioural challenges</li> </ul>

# Two Pathways

## Child Protection Pathway

- Level 4 cases
- Meet criteria on windscreen
- Picked up by social worker
- Children and Family Assessment
- Child Protection Plan or child in Need Plan

## Early Help Pathway

- Level 3 cases
- Early Help Advisors available to support and offer guidance
- Check what you plan to refer families to
- Early Help assessment
- What support has been provided
- Only high level 3 cases will be picked up by CFP

# What should we do?

- **For Milton Keynes**
- Direct referral to the Hub on  
01908 253169 / 01908 253170
- Out of hours 01908 265545  
Email: [children@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:children@milton-keynes.gov.uk)  
Fax: 01908 254460
- Complete the online form MARF (updated Feb 2022)  
The Children & Families Referral Form is now  
Early Help Assessment (EHA)

<https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/forms/showForm.asp>

Milton-Keynes.gov.uk

Site search

Home > Forms > Milton Keynes Children and Families Multi-Agency Referral Form (MARF)

## Milton Keynes Children and Families Multi-Agency Referral Form (MARF)

Section 1: Family Details

### Referrer Details

Name \*