Making Every

London Child Matter

Young London Matters



Mobility and Young London

Annex 2(b): London Continuum Descriptors



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Our Partners



































Annex 2(b): London Continuum Descriptors

This annex sets out risk and resilience charts, which have been developed to support the London Continuum of Need (annex 2(a) from *Integrated Working Without Boundaries – The London Common Assessment Framework (CAF) Protocol*.

These annexes form part of a series of annexes from *Integrated Working Without Boundaries - The London Common Assessment Framework (CAF) Protocol*.

The descriptors cover the following (non-exhaustive) list of policy areas:

- teenage pregnancy;
- · substance misuse; and
- · youth offending.

Further work on gangs and serious violence is being developed by the London Safeguarding Children Board and DSCF.



Substance Misuse Thresholds

Research has identified key factors known to increase the likelihood of substance misuse. The more risk factors a young person has, the more likely they are to be involved with substance misuse.

The Common Assessment Framework (CAF) is an important tool to aid the early identification of young people at risk of, or involved in, substance misuse. Young people exhibiting the risk factors described at Level 2 on the table below should be the subject of a common assessment and have a targeted support package put in place to support them (as exemplified below). Young people at Level 3 are already involved in substance misuse, so have additional support needs. Young people at Level 4 require specialist substance misuse interventions.

Ideally, need should be met at the lowest appropriate level of intervention with clear referral pathway in place and movement between the different levels of intervention. The CAF will also play a vital role in ensuring effective plans are in place for young people leaving targeted support or specialist treatment.

Level 1 - Universal

Children with no additional needs

	Substance Misuse threshold/descriptor		
Children whose developmental needs are met by universal services	 Attends school regularly/or in EET and no concerns about achievement No known drug or alcohol misuse and has access to accurate and age appropriate knowledge about the risks associated with taking drugs and using alcohol 		
	Risk factors	Protective factors/resilience	Suggested interventions
	 No mental health concerns No concerns about potential offending Likely to be living in a non-deprived area Not known to social care Exposure to substance use as normal 	 Positive aspirations In education/employment/ training Positive attitude to learning High sense of self esteem Stable family and home life Supportive consistent parenting and positive role models Resilience to peer pressure Supportive peer relationships Parents value education 	 Accurate and age appropriate drug and alcohol information, advice and education Advice and information for parents and carers General health screening Substance misuse screening, and where appropriate, referral to another service



Substance Misuse Thresholds

Level 2 - Low to Vulnerable

Single or multi-agency targeted support

Children with lowlevel additional unmet needs that are not being consistently met

There are no acute needs, but these children require extra support in order to promote their welfare and well-being

If a young person meets one of the thresholds, they have reached the threshold for beginning a CAF. If the young person also displays some risk factors or has a single significant risk factor, and few protective factors, they need to have a targeted substance misuse prevention intervention

Substance Misuse threshold/descriptor

- Low level substance misuse (current or historical)
- For 14 year olds and over this may involve starting to experiment. For younger children or those with additional developmental needs any level of use is of concern and may warrant recognition as a child in need

Risk factors

Is in EET but struggling with attendance and/or attainment

- Left school at 16 with no/few qualifications
- Low level emotional health and wellbeing and/or low self esteem and vulnerable to peer pressure
- Learning difficulties
- At risk of or has started involvement in criminal activity
- May live in a deprived area and be affected by low income or unemployment
- Some issues identified with parenting and/or home life (but not escalated to social care) which may affect the child/young person
- Looked after child (current/historic) including care leavers
- Young carers
- Exposure to substance misuse as normal, including in the family or in the community [including parents in specialist treatment]
- Living in temporary accommodation with or without parents

Protective factors/resilience

- Positive aspirations
- In education/employment/ training
- Positive attitude to learningHigh sense of self esteem
- Stable family and home life
- Supportive consistent parenting and positive role models
- Resilience to peer pressure
- Supportive peer relationships
- Parents value education

Suggested interventions

- Targeted drug and alcohol information, advice and education, including harm reduction advice to support informed choices
- Programmes aiming to build self-esteem and enhance social/life skills
- Prevention Programmes
- Positive activities



Level 3 - High or Complex

Additional needs requiring integrated targeted support OR child in need [section 17]

Substance Misuse threshold/descriptor

If a young person meets one of the thresholds they have reached the threshold for integrated or targeted support. If the young person also displays some risk factors or has a single significant risk factor, and few protective factors, this may suggest that support should be targeted to prevent substance

misuse

- Evidence of regular/frequent drug use which may be combined with other risk factors
 Evidence of escalation of substance use
- Evidence of escalation of substance use
 Evidence of changing attitudes and more disregard to risk

When considering whether a child or young person meets the Level 3 threshold, the assessment should take into account the need for an age and developmentally appropriate response

Risk factors

Tribit ractors

- Short-term exclusions or at risk of permanent exclusions, persistent truanting
- İs NEET
- Limited or low aspirations
- Evidence of risk of harm due to parental/family or peer substance misuse [including parents in specialist treatment]
- Mental health issues including depression, anxiety and self-harming and poor self esteem
- Learning difficulties
- Engaging in offending behaviour – known to YOT or the police
- History of domestic violence
- Young carers
- Looked after child (current/historic) including care leavers
- Family mental health issues
- Is homeless or living in temporary accommodation
- May live in a deprived area and affected by low income or unemployment

Protective factors/resilience

Positive aspirations

role models

- In education/employment/ training
- Positive attitude to learning
- High sense of self esteem
- Stable family and home life
 Supportive consistent parenting and positive
- Resilience to peer pressure
- Supportive peer relationships
- Parents value education

Suggested interventions

Targeted drug and alcohol

- information, advice and education. May be delivered through one-to-one or informal group sessions. This should cover raising
- This should cover raising awareness, supporting informed choice and
- reducing harm.
 Integrated support and advice on a range of issues

including offending, sexual

- health, education and housing
 Counselling addressing
- lifestyle issues
- Family and individual support



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Substance Misuse Thresholds

Level 4 - Complex or Acute

Additional needs requiring specialist or statutory integrated response OR child protection [section 47]

If a young person meets one of the thresholds, displays one or more risk factors and few protective factors, they have reached the threshold for specialist/statutory integrated support

Children experiencing significant harm require statutory intervention such as child protection. These children may need to be accommodated by the local authority either on a voluntary basis or by way of Court Order

Substance Misuse threshold/descriptor

- Young people experiencing current harm through their use of substances. These are likely to be impacting on other aspects of the young person's life
- Young people with complicated substance problems requiring specific interventions and/or child protection
- Young people with complex needs whose issues are exacerbated by substance use

When considering whether a child or young person meets the Level 4 threshold, the assessment should take into account the need for an age and developmentally appropriate response

Risk factors

Chronic non-attendance, truanting

- Permanently excluded, frequent exclusions or no education provision
 Is NEET
- No aspirations for the future and no future plan
- No parental support for education
- Complex mental health issues requiring specialist interventions
- Learning difficulties
- Failure to address serious re-offending behaviour
- Parental/family or peer substance misuse [including in treatment]
- Child or young person who needs to be looked after outside the family home or is a care leaver with support concerns
- Suspicion of physical, emotional and sexual abuse or neglect
- High levels of domestic violence that put the child/young person at risk
- Sexual exploitation
- Family mental health issuesIs homeless or living in
- temporary accommodation
 May live in a deprived area
 and affected by low income

or unemployment

Young carer

Protective factors/resilience

- Positive aspirations
- In education/employment/ training
- Positive attitude to learning
- High sense of self esteem
 Stable family and home life
- Supportive consistent parenting and positive role models
- Resilience to peer pressure
- Supportive peer relationships
- Parents value education

Suggested interventions

[in addition to above and with clear links and referral pathways back to lower level interventions as appropriate]

- comprehensive assessment and formulation of substance specific care plan
- Pharmacological/Prescribing
- Counselling
- Harm reduction support within a key work relationship
- Residential
- Family intervention/support/ therapy
- If there is a safeguarding concern refer to social services



Teenage Pregnancy Thresholds

Research has identified key factors known to increase the likelihood of teenage pregnancy.

These can be grouped into:

- education related factors;
- risky behaviours; and
- family and social circumstances.

The more needs a young person has, the more likely they are to experience a teenage conception. Sexual activity alone is not a key indicator for risk of teenage pregnancy. A young person may not be sexually active but could have other key risk factors and be in need of targeted support to prevent teenage pregnancy. Protective factors should also be considered when working with a young person as these can reduce the risk of teenage pregnancy, even if many of the risk factors are in place.

The CAF is an important tool for the early identification of young people at risk of teenage pregnancy, ideally before they become sexually active. Diagnosis of need will enable professionals to put into place programmes of support.

Research shows that to be effective in reducing teenage pregnancy, support programmes should:

- intervene early before the first sexual experience;
- focus on raising aspirations, attainment and self esteem;
- provide intensive 1:1 work and support the development of relationship with trusted adult;
- consider different approaches for young men and young women; and
- ensure that the workforce is equipped to identify and support young people at risk.

The needs identified at each of the levels below are applicable to both young men and young women of any sexual orientation. Sexual activity is defined as vaginal, oral or anal sex.

Level 1 - Universal

Children with no additional needs

Children whose developmental needs are met by universal services

Teenage Pregnancy threshold/descriptor

- Attends school regularly/or in EET and likely to achieve 5 A*-C GCSE or higher academic success Knowledgeable about sex & relationships and consistent use of contraception/protection if
- sexually active

Additional needs

- No drug or alcohol misuse
- No mental health concerns
- No concerns about potential offending
- Likely to be living in a non-deprived area
- Not known to social care

Protective factors/resilience

- Positive aspirations
- In education/employment/training
- Positive attitude to learning
- High sense of self esteem
- Stable family and home life
- Supportive consistent parenting, positive role models or relationship with at least one trusted adult
- Resilience to peer pressure & delayed sexual activity
- Supportive peer relationships
- Parents value education

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Teenage Pregnancy Thresholds

Level 2 - Low to Vulnerable

Single or multi-agency targeted support

Children with lowlevel additional unmet needs that are not being consistently met

There are no acute needs, but these children require extra support in order to promote their welfare and well-being

If a young person meets 1 of the thresholds, they have reached the threshold for beginning a CAF. If the young person also has a number of the additional needs listed and few protective factors, they need to have a targeted teenage pregnancy prevention intervention

Teenage Pregnancy threshold/descriptor

- Is in EET but struggling with attendance and/or attainment
 Left school at 16 with no/few qualifications
- Expressing wish to become pregnant/be a parent at a young age (at any age)
- Early onset of sexual activity (13-14)
- Sexually active 15-19 years olds with inconsistent use of contraception/protection, and limited access to contraceptive and sexual health advice, information and services

Additional needs

- Is involved in low level substance misuse (current or historical)
- Has low level mental health problems and/or low self esteem and is vulnerable to peer pressure
 Is at risk of or is involved in criminal activity
- Is affected by low income or unemployment
- Is affected by issues linked to parenting and/or home life (not currently escalated to social care), including acceptability of early parenthood
- Has previously been looked after
- Is/was a daughter of a teenage mother or has a family member who is/was a teenage parent
- Is a refugee or asylum seeker and isolated from family and friends
- Is homeless or living in temporary accommodation
- Has history of sexual abuse or rape
- Is 16 or 17 and having sex with someone 5 or more years older

Protective factors/resilience

- Positive aspirations
- In education/employment/training
- Positive attitude to learning
- High sense of self esteem
- Stable family and home life
- Supportive consistent parenting, positive role models or relationship with at least one trusted adult
- Resilience to peer pressure & delayed sexual activity
- Supportive peer relationships
- Parents value education

Effective interventions for consideration by single agency or at Team Around the Child (TAC) meeting

1. If programme or service exists which offers targeted support to young people at risk of teenage pregnancy, refer young person to this service

OR

Agree a structured package of 1:1 intensive support led by PA, learning mentor, youth worker or other

This MUST include:

- Discussing sex, relationships and sexual health with the young person, and referring them to local contraceptive and sexual health services, including condom distribution schemes and access to emergency hormonal contraception
- Referral to or commissioning of group-based interventions to improve the young person's sex and relationships knowledge, understanding and skills. The focus should be on dealing with peer pressure, delaying first sex, negotiating safer sex, and managing risktaking behaviour

Depending on identified needs the intervention will also include:

- Securing learning support (including additional literacy and numeracy) for young people who are falling behind in school
- Supporting young people to remain in, or to gain access to education, employment, accredited training or taster courses
- Providing careers guidance and encouraging engagement in work experience opportunities, volunteering and out-of-school activities that foster success, ambition and contribute to raising aspirations
- Providing practical support to attend appointments
- Contacting alcohol and drug services for professional support and to make appropriate referrals
- Contacting child and adolescent mental health services for professional support and to make appropriate referrals
- Contacting housing services for professional support and to make appropriate referrals
- Ensuring skills development and support for young people experiencing family or relationship conflict or breakdown
- Engaging parents and carers with the structured programme of support to young person and referring to sources of parenting support

Level 3 - High or Complex

Additional needs requiring integrated targeted support OR child in need [section 17]

Teenage Pregnancy threshold/descriptor

If a young person meets 1 of the thresholds they have reached the threshold for integrated or targeted support. Additional needs may suggest that support needs to be targeted to prevent teenage pregnancy

These children may be eligible for a child in need service from children's social care

- Under 16 and has had (or has caused) a previous pregnancy ending in still birth, abortion or miscarriage
- 16 or over and has had (or has caused) two or more previous pregnancies or who is already a teenage parent
- Under 18 and is pregnant

Additional needs

- Short-term exclusions or is at risk of permanent exclusions or persistent truanting.
- İs NEET
- Has limited or low aspirations
- Is misusing substances with alcohol/drug impaired decision making
- Has mental health issues including depression, anxiety and self-harming and poor self esteem
- Is engaging in offending behaviour and is known to YOT or the police
- Has a history of domestic violence

Protective factors/resilience

- Positive aspirations
- In education/employment/training
- Positive attitude to learning
- High sense of self esteem
- Stable family and home life
- Supportive consistent parenting, positive role models or relationship with at least one trusted adult
- Resilience to peer pressure & delayed sexual activity
- Supportive peer relationships
- Parents value education

Effective interventions for consideration at Team Around the Child (TAC) meeting

Interventions identified at level 2 also apply at level 3.

In addition:

 Ensure young people in care have access to enhanced sexual health information, advice and support, and know how to access contraceptive services. LAC nurses can support this

 Follow locally agreed 'pathway' for young women who may be pregnant



Teenage Pregnancy Thresholds

Level 4 - Complex or Acute

Additional needs requiring specialist or statutory integrated response OR child protection [section 47]

If a young person meets 1 of the thresholds, has one or more additional needs and few protective factors, they have reached the threshold for specialist/statutory integrated support

Children experiencing significant harm require statutory intervention such as **child protection**. These children may need to be accommodated by the local authority either on a voluntary basis or by way of Court Order

Teenage Pregnancy threshold/descriptor

- Is in some form of sexually exploitative relationship (gang related, sexual abuse through prostitution, familial sexual abuse, under 16 and in relationship with 4 years or more age difference)
- Teenage parent under 16
- Young person under 13 engaging in sexual activity

Additional needs

- Chronic non-attendance, truanting
- Permanently excluded, frequent exclusions or no education provision
- Is NEET
- Has no aspirations for the future and no future plan
- No parental support for education
- Endangers own life through drug or alcohol misuse
- Has complex mental health issues requiring specialist interventions
- Failure or rejection to address serious reoffending behaviour
- Needs to be looked after outside the family home
- Suspicion of physical, emotional and sexual abuse or neglect
- High levels of domestic violence that put the young person at risk

Protective factors/resilience

- Positive aspirations
- In education/employment/training
- Positive attitude to learning
- High sense of self esteem
- Stable family and home life
- Supportive consistent parenting, positive role models or relationship with at least one trusted adult
- Resilience to peer pressure & delayed sexual activity
- Supportive peer relationships
- Parents value education

Effective interventions for consideration at Team Around the Child (TAC) meeting

Interventions identified at level 2 also apply at level 4.

In addition:

- Ensure young people in care have access to enhanced sexual health information, advice and support, and know how to access contraceptive services. LAC nurses can support this
- Follow locally agreed 'pathway' for young women who may be pregnant



Youth Crime Prevention Thresholds

Extensive, credible and predictive research into youth offending shows a range of identifiable risk factors present in the lives of many children and young people. The presence of particular risk factors, or a combination of them, significantly increases the likelihood of children and young people becoming involved in criminal and anti-social behaviour.

The CAF can play a pivotal role in identifying these risk factors and providing the framework for managing them. The CAF does not replace the use of specialist assessments but it can act as an early warning mechanism on which specialists assessments can build on and enhance over time.

The CAF is not only relevant in the early identification of young people at risk, that is acting as a referral gateway into YOT and other integrated Prevention Programmes. It also can play a vital role in identifying if additional needs are present requiring an integrated approach for young people who offend and are known to the YOT. (needs a space) The CAF can play a vital role in ensuring effective resettlement plans are in place when statutory YOT interventions end or as part of an exit strategy for young people on the Deter Group who end their statutory YOT intervention.

An integrated and defined relationship between the CAF and the Youth Justice Board (YJB) Specialist Assessment Tools should ensure:

- prompt identification of those at risk of entering the criminal justice system;
- a significant contribution of youth support services to improving performance against the key national priorities such as reducing youth re offending and reducing the number of First Time Entrants into the Criminal Justice System.

Level 1 - Universal

Children with no additional needs

Children whose developmental needs are met by universal services

Youth Crime Prevention threshold/descriptor

- Attends school regularly/or in EET and likely to achieve a positive EET outcome (GCSEs, or vocational qualifications)
- Knowledgeable about the effects of crime and anti social behaviour, has strong pro social peers and access to consistent and positive activities

Characteristics/risk factors

- No drug or alcohol misuse
- No mental health concerns
- No concerns about potential offending
- Likely to be living in a non-deprived area
- Not known to social care
- No history of problematic behaviours

Protective factors/resilience

- Positive aspirations
- In education/employment/training
- Positive attitude to learning
- High sense of self esteem
- Stable family and home life
- Supportive consistent parenting and positive role models
- Resilience to peer pressure & delayed sexual activity



Youth Crime Prevention Thresholds

Level 2 - Low to Vulnerable

Single or multi-agency targeted support

Children with lowlevel additional unmet needs that are not being consistently met

There are no acute needs, but these children require extra support in order to promote their welfare and well-being

If a young person meets one of the thresholds, they have reached the threshold for beginning a CAF. If the young person also displays some risk factors or has a single significant risk factor, and few protective factors, they need to have a targeted YO support

Youth Crime Prevention threshold/descriptor

- Is in EET but struggling with attendance and/or attainment
- Left school at 16 with no/few qualifications and is not engaged in structured learning
- Beginning to develop pro offending attitudes and associated anti social peers
- Early onset of anti social behaviour or activity
- Coming to the notice of police either through association with criminally active peers or through low level/gravity offending

Risk factors

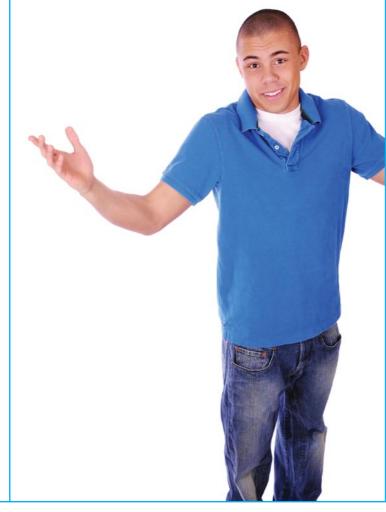
- Low level substance misuse (current or historical) starting to experiment
- Low level mental health and/or low self esteem and vulnerable to peer pressure
- At risk of or has started involvement in criminal activity
- May live in a deprived area and affected by low income or unemployment
- Local area is characterised by a lack of social cohesion, engagement in positive activities and low levels of social capital.
- Some issues identified with parenting and/or home life (but not escalated to social care) which may affect the (child) young person
- Looked after child and experiencing problems in the continuity of care i.e. multiple placements etc (current/historic)
- Anti social behaviour and offending acceptable within family and wider social network
- Parents or sibling, relations or influential social networks involved in offending

Protective factors/resilience

- Positive aspirations
- In education/employment/
- Positive attitude to learning High sense of self esteem
- Stable family and home life
- Supportive consistent parenting and positive role models
- Resilience to peer pressure & delayed sexual activity
- Supportive peer relationships
- Parents value education

Suggested interventions

- Referral to structured positive activities delivered by the Youth Service or bespoke voluntary and Community Sector programmes
- Time limited citizenship type interventions focusing on promoting pro social values and norms



Level 3 - High or Complex

Additional needs requiring integrated targeted support OR child in need [section 17]

Youth Crime Prevention threshold/descriptor

If a young person meets one of the thresholds they have reached the threshold for integrated or targeted support. If the young person also displays some risk factors or has a single significant risk factor, and few protective factors, this may suggest that support should be targeted to prevent offending

Coming to notice of the Police on a regular basis but matters not being progressed Already received a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN), Reprimand, or Final Warning or Triage of Diversionary Intervention

Risk factors

Short-term exclusions or at risk of permanent exclusions, persistent truanting

- Is NEET
- Limited or low aspirations
- Substance misuse with alcohol/drug impaired decision making
- Mental health issues including depression, anxiety and self-harming and poor self esteem
- Peer group predominately anti social and known to law enforcement agencies
- Known to associate with young people involved in gang or group offending
- Associates in the confines of a defined post code and has strong territorial allegiances
- Coming to notice to Safer Neighbourhood Teams

Protective factors/resilience

- Positive aspirations In education/employment/ training
- Positive attitude to learning
- High sense of self esteem
- Stable family and home life Supportive consistent
- parenting and positive role models Resilience to peer pressure
- & delayed sexual activity
- Supportive peer relationships Parents value education

Suggested interventions

- Referral to a Youth Crime Prevention Programme, such as a Youth Inclusion and Support Programme (YISP)
- a locality based prevention programme like a Youth Inclusion Programme (YIP)
- If in the formal criminal justice system likely to be assessed as being within the standard or enhanced tiers of the scaled approach.



Youth Crime Prevention Thresholds

Level 4 - Complex or Acute

Additional needs requiring specialist or statutory integrated response OR child protection [section 47]

Youth Crime Prevention threshold/descriptor

If a young person meets one of the thresholds, displays one or more risk factors and few protective factors, they have reached the threshold for specialist/statutory integrated support

Children experiencing significant harm require statutory intervention such as **child protection**. These children may need to be accommodated by the local authority either on a voluntary basis or by way of Court Order

- Actively involved in offending
- Known to be part of a gang or a post code derived collective
- Offending which is possibly serious and persistent
- Likely to require additional services after YOT intervention

Risk factors

Chronic non-attendance, truanting

- Permanently excluded, frequent exclusions or no education provision
- Is NEET
- No aspirations for the future and no future plan
- No parental support for compliance with available services
- Endangers own life through drug or alcohol misuse
- Involved in gang or post code related offending
- Complex mental health issues requiring specialist interventions
- Failure or rejection to address serious re-offending behaviour
- Child or young person who is increasingly vulnerable due to own behaviour or behaviour at others. Offending and safeguarding needs increasingly become blurred

Protective factors/resilience

- Positive aspirations In education/employment/
- Positive attitude to learning
- High sense of self esteem
- Stable family and home life
- Supportive consistent parenting and positive role models
- Resilience to peer pressure & delayed sexual activity
- Supportive peer relationships
- Parents value education

Suggested interventions

- Extensive Inter agency working with the YOT and other criminal justice agencies both during and after YOT interventions
- If in the formal criminal justice system likely to be assessed as being within the enhanced or intensive tiers of the scaled approach.



