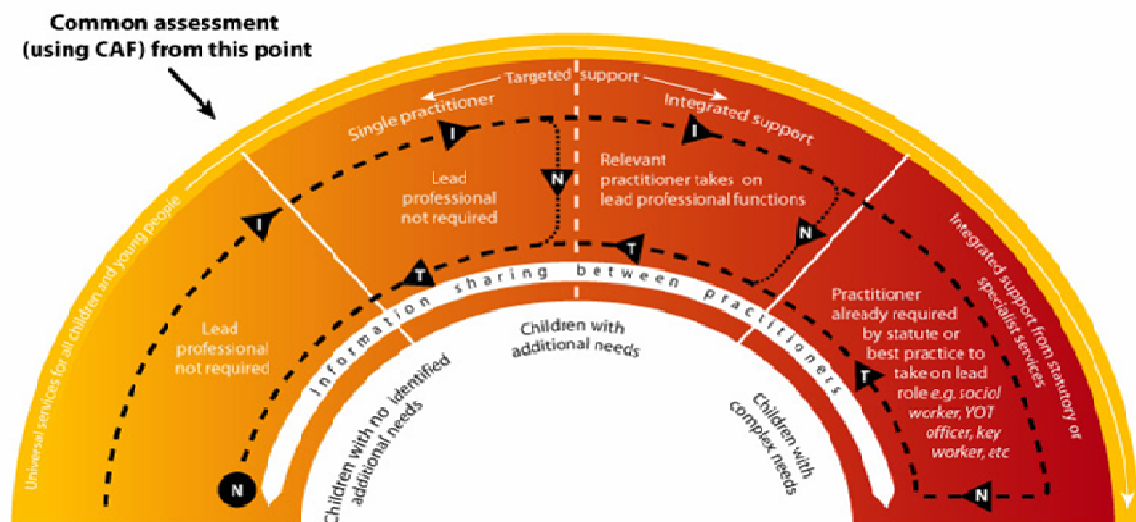


Safeguarding Children in Cheshire East: Continuum of Need *How we work together*

The 'windscreen' model is used nationally to illustrate how children may move either way between different levels of need and the responses from support services they will require.

The four segments, from left to right, indicate **Universal**, **Targeted**, **Complex**, and **Specialist** levels of service provision in response to need.



Key: I = identification and action, T = Transition, N = Needs met



Continuum of Need	Response
Specialist needs	
Children and young people who require specialist/acute services to meet their needs. This includes children who have suffered or are likely to suffer significant harm (Children Act 1989, s.47) Significant harm may be the result of physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse or neglect.	Refer to appropriate specialist agency. Refer concern to Children's Social Care. Children's Social Care shall make such enquiries as they consider necessary to enable them to decide whether they should take any action to safeguard or promote the child's welfare (Children Act 1989, s.47) The local authority and health bodies have a duty to help with enquiries about significant harm. (Children Act 1989, s.47)
Complex needs	
Children and young people whose needs are not fully met due to the range, depth or significance of these needs. This includes children whose vulnerability is such that they are unlikely to reach or maintain a satisfactory level of health or development, or their health and development will be significantly impaired, without the provision of services (CA 1989, s.17) Child whose health or development is being impaired, or there is a high risk of impairment	If a multi-agency response is required, the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) process should be used. This should involve the parent/carer and child/ young person. Children's Social Care carry lead responsibility for establishing whether a child is in need and for ensuring services are provided to that child as appropriate. This does not require Children's Social Care itself necessarily to be the provider or co-ordinator of such services. The local authority and health bodies have a duty to help with enquiries about children in need (Children Act 1989, 17).
Targeted - additional needs	
Children and young people who would benefit from additional help from public agencies in order to make the best of their life chances.	If a practitioner identifies a concern about a child they should assess the needs and agree a plan of support with the parent/carer and the child using the Common Assessment Framework.
Universal - no identified additional needs	
Children and young people whose needs are being adequately met by their parents/carers, and who are accessing universal services.	For the local authority and health bodies and youth justice organisations, there is a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of child, and a duty to cooperate (Children Act 2004).