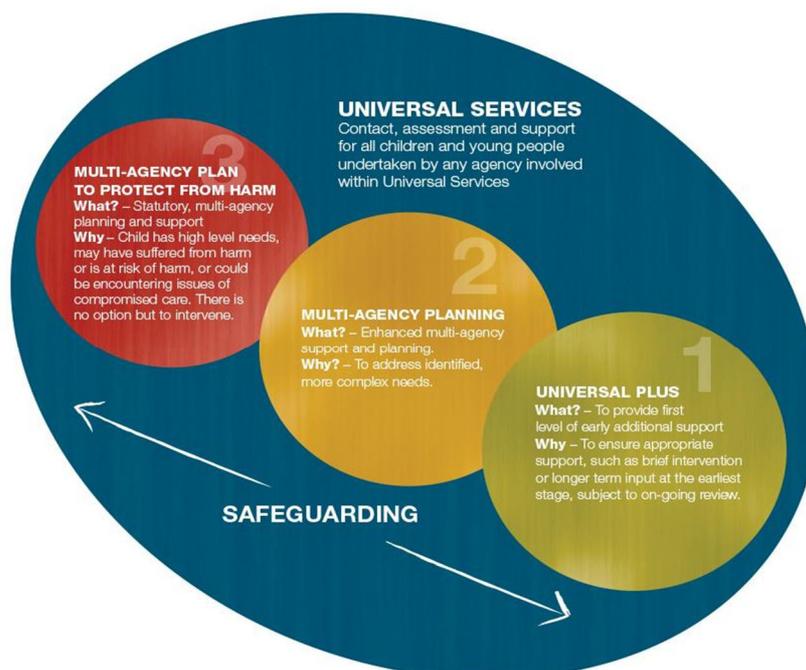


The Halton Levels of Need Framework aims to support agencies to meet the needs of children, young people and their families to ensure the best possible outcomes. It aims to assist practitioners and managers in assessing and identifying a child's level of additional needs and how best to respond in order to meet those needs as early as possible to prevent needs escalating further.

The Framework sets out three levels of additional needs above Universal Services that captures the full range of additional needs as they present. Universal Services remain at the heart of all work with children, young people and their families and are in place for all whether additional needs present themselves or not. The fundamental relationship between Universal Services and the three levels of additional needs is captured in the diagram below:



Working Together 2013 seeks to ensure that all local areas have effective safeguarding systems in place and sets out two key principles that should underpin all safeguarding arrangements:

- **SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY:** for services to be effective each professional and organisation should play their full part; and
- **A CHILD CENTRED APPROACH:** for services to be effective they should be based on a clear understanding of the needs and views of children

The Halton Levels of Need Framework has been developed in line with this guidance and meets the requirement for the publication of a 'thresholds document' for Halton. It is based on a robust application of the Framework for the Assessment of Children (underpinned by the Children Act 1989), Team around the Family procedures and is consistent with LSCB procedures. The Halton Levels of Need Framework can be used as a central focal point to bring the right agencies together at the right level.

In terms of the **Children Act 1989**, our responsibilities include:

- Where a child is accommodated under section 20 (when parents retain the parental responsibility for the child), the local authority has a statutory responsibility to assess the child's needs and draw up a care plan which sets out the services to be provided to meet the child's identified needs.
- Under section 31A, where a child is the subject of an Interim Care Order or a Full Care Order, the local authority (who in these circumstances shares responsibilities, as a corporate parent, for the child and becomes the main contact around the child's every day needs) must assess the child's needs and draw up a care plan which sets out the services which will be provided to meet the child's identified needs.

For more information please contact the Children and Young People Policy Team cypolicy@halton.gov.uk