

## Effective Support for Children, Young People and Families in Bexley

*Shared guidance to help all practitioners working with children, young people, families and carers to provide additional and early help, intensive and specialist support*

Following consultation across the partnership earlier this year, new multi-agency guidance on [Effective Support for Children, Young People and Families in Bexley](#) was published in June 2017. (This replaces the previous 'Threshold' document, Bexley Continuum of Need Matrix.)

Local Safeguarding Children Boards are required to publish such guidance and it has been developed to help all practitioners who work with children, young people and their families in Bexley understand the differing levels of support services available to children, young people and their families.

A guidance note is available [here](#) but in summary, the guidance outlines four levels of support:

Level 1 - Universal	All families in Bexley receive these services such as health visiting, education and access to Children's Centres.
Level 2 - Additional	Two or more services work together with the family and develop a plan of support.
Level 3 - Intensive	Referral to the Family Well-being Service for families with multiple/complex needs.
Level 4 - Specialist	Referral to the Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) where a child is at risk of significant harm.

The guidance emphasises the importance of effective multi-agency working and information sharing to ensure children, young people and their families get the right support at the earliest opportunity. It promotes 'conversations', consultation and advice between professionals (including, where appropriate, consultation with social workers in the MASH).

The intention is to help families become stronger and more resilient so they can find solutions before their difficulties become so complex that specialist statutory social work help is required. This is linked to [Bexley's Corporate Plan 2016-2019](#) and Priority Two "to support residents in the borough to live fulfilled and independent lives".

The BSCB Partnership Board has agreed a plan for disseminating and embedding this document across the local child safeguarding partnership in Bexley. Plans for dissemination include:

- using the BSCB Safeguarding Champions to disseminate the document within their organisations. (The document was officially launched in the Safeguarding Champion workshops in June and July 2017.)
- including the revised 'Thresholds' document in the new rolling programme of briefing sessions on the Statutory Basics of Working Together in Bexley to Safeguard Children.
- ensuring the BSCB basic e-learning training package is updated to reflect the revised multi-agency thresholds and to replace the references to *Bexley Continuum of Need Matrix* with *Effective Support for Children, Young People and Families in Bexley*.
- Likewise, ensuring single agency training is updated to reflect the new revised multi-agency thresholds.