

Bolton Safeguarding Children Partnership

Framework for Action

Introduction

The Bolton Framework for Action outlines how local practitioners work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in our area. It sets out the thresholds that all partners will apply when working with children and their parents.

This edition of the of the Framework for Action builds on the strengths and learning from previous versions and sets out the local arrangements to:

- Identify, assess and respond to children's needs across our continuum from delivering prevention, early help, to targeted responses, to protecting children from abuse and neglect
- Access additional services to address children's needs
- Seek advice and guidance about thresholds or interventions
- Act when there are disagreements about the level of help and support a child needs

The Framework for Action has been developed with partners and remains rooted in strong multi-agency working to achieve the best for Bolton's children. All services and practitioners, including commissioned services, working in Bolton should ensure their policies and practice embeds the requirements outlined in this document.

The statutory safeguarding partners would like to acknowledge and thank all those who participated in and contributed to the update of this edition.



Su Long -Chief Officer, Bolton Clinical Commissioning Group



Tony Oakman -Chief Executive, Bolton Council



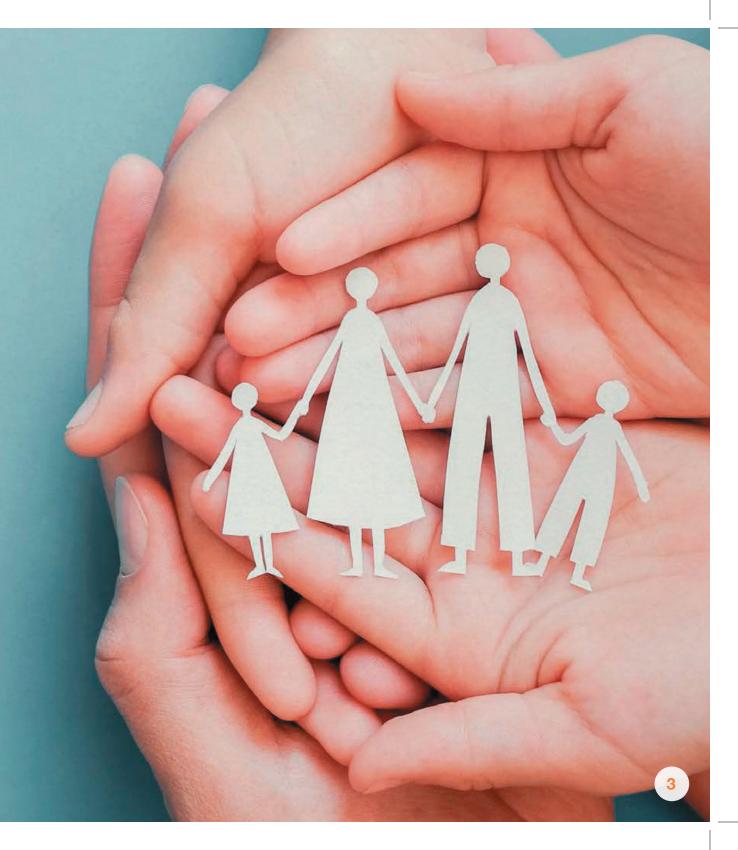
Stuart Ellison -

Stuart Ellison Chief Superintendent,
Greater Manchester Police

Bolton Safeguarding Children Partnership

Principles

Effective and consistent use of Bolton's Framework for Action by all those who work directly or indirectly with children and their parents will support children in Bolton reach their full potential.



Framework for Action

These principals will also ensure that the thresholds and safeguarding arrangements set out in this document will support the statutory partners achieve their vision for Bolton:

In Bolton we want to give all our children the best possible start in life, so that they have every chance to succeed, be safe and happy.

We will listen to children, their leadership amples and all our stakeholders and all our stakeholders and all our stakeholders agency stakeholders.

We aim to achieve this by

Wide and agency stakeholders agency stakeholders agency stakeholders.

A culture of continuous development, improvement, and learning

Effective, ambitious child-focussed leadership within and across partners

Agencies understand their respective roles and thresholds

Wide and active engagement in multiagency safeguarding arrangements

Good systems for information sharing which practitioners are confident and knowledgeable about

High support and high challenge within the multi-agency system

This will create an environment in which multi-agency practice will flourish



This will lead to improved outcomes for children:

Early help is being used effectively to co-ordinate preventative responses to help meet children's needs

Children and their families tell us that they are able to access services at the right time from the right person and in the right place

Children tell us they have been able to develop trust with their key workers

Parents/carers tell us practitioners have listened and helped them

Children tell us that they have been listened to and involved in their care and service improvement

Practitioners tell us they are confident in local processes and understand what is out there to support children and families

More children will remain in the care of their family unit and will not need to be supported by statutory services

Multi-agency audit
highlights that outcomes for
children are being met, that
there is high quality practice,
a good understanding of
thresholds and that people
are aware of different roles
and responsibilities across
the partnership

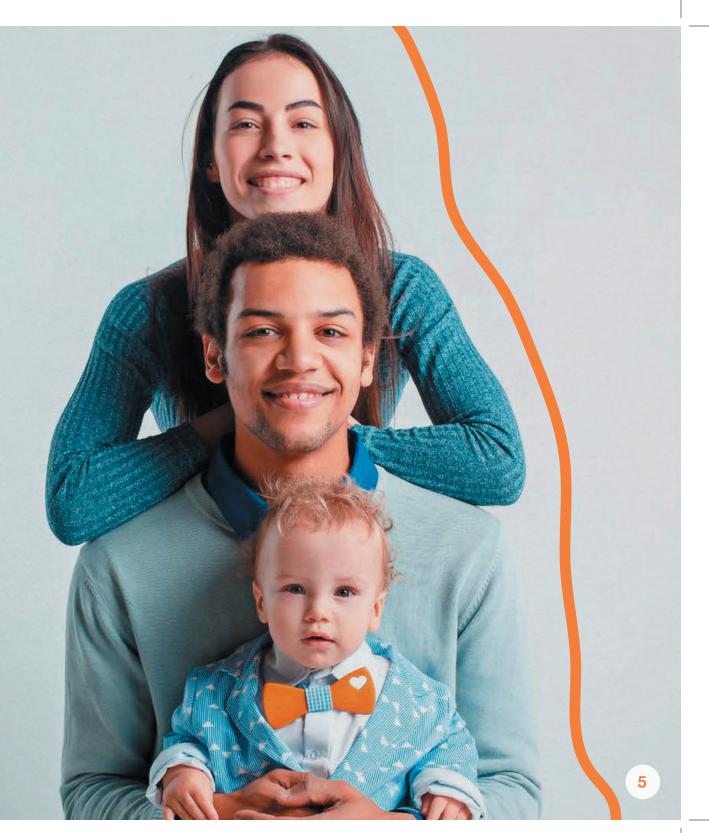
Framework for Action

Bolton Safeguarding Children Partnership

Principles

The Framework is underpinned by the following principles:

- Keeping children safe and achieving good outcomes for all, regardless of their needs, is at the heart of what we do
- All practitioners understand their roles and responsibilities in relation to keeping children safe and use the local thresholds to provide the right help and support
- Help and support is developed with the child and their parents, building on the strengths and solutions they identify
- Holistic assessment is the starting point for offering help and support at any level of need and provides the evidence base to inform decisions about the right threshold
- Help and support is offered at the earliest opportunity the right help, at the right time from the right people
- All agencies work collaboratively using the Framework for Action to promote co-ordinated, effective support to children and their parents and avoid duplication
- A child centred approach is central and takes account of diverse needs of children and their families, including but not limited to gender, ethnicity, culture, special educational need or disability
- High support and high challenge within the multi-agency system is evident and promotes the best outcomes for children
- Partners commit to integrating the threshold document within their existing organisational or sector guidance such as the SEND Handbook, Early Years Delivery Model etc.



Framework for Action

Continuum of help and support

- thresholds for responding

Children and their families views and involvement must be at the heart of our work. The help we give should lead to improvements for children and the earlier we offer help, the better chance there is of it being effective. Bolton's continuum of help aims to build on the existing strengths of a child and their family while ensuring timely, effective support to address need.

The continuum of help and support, 'the windscreen', has been in place for a significant number of years in Bolton. Having a shared model across the partnership not only promotes a shared language and a consistent approach but also informs commissioning of local services.

In Bolton, since the inception of our Area Child Protection Committee's 'Child Concern Model' in 1995 and throughout our journey from a Safeguarding Children Board to the current partnership safeguarding arrangements, we have always promoted and continue to promote the ethos of:

Right help, at the right time, from the right people



Framework for Action

The thresholds for help and support, as well as the desired outcomes and examples of service response are described as follows:

At this level I...

Universal

...am thriving, my needs are consistently met as my family, or the universal services I access keep me safe, promote my welfare and help me achieve my potential.

Prevention

...need some extra help from those already helping to keep me safe, promote my welfare and help me achieve my potential.

Levels of need

Early help

...or my family need co-ordinated help to be safe, promote my welfare and achieve my potential.

Targeted help

...or my family have complex needs and need different services to work together to keep me safe, promote my welfare and help me achieve my potential.

Statutory help

...am a child in need or in need of being protected from neglect or physical, sexual or emotional abuse; I need help from a social worker to keep me safe.

Me or my family might need help from...

Universal support

Early Years Settings, Education Settings, GP, Children's Integrated Health And Wellbeing Service, Voluntary And Community Sector, Housing Providers, Youth Clubs, Leisure Services.

Preventative support

Early Years Settings, Education
Settings, GP, Children's Integrated
Health and Wellbeing Service,
Voluntary And Community
Sector, Housing Providers, Youth
Clubs, Start Well Service, I-Thrive
Partnership, Adult Mental Health
Services, Adult And Children's
Substance Services, Domestic
Abuse And Violence Services,
Probation Services.

Support examples

Early help support

Early Years Settings, Education
Settings, GP, Children's Integrated
Health and Wellbeing Service,
Voluntary and Community Sector,
Housing Providers, Youth Clubs,
Start Well Service, I-Thrive
Partnership, Adult Mental Health
Services, Adult and Children's
Substance Services, Domestic
Abuse And Violence Services,
Targeted Youth Support, Youth
Offending Team, Child And
Adolescent Mental Health Service,
Probation Services.

Targeted help support

Early Help Access Point, Early Years Settings, Education Settings, GP, Children's Integrated Health and Wellbeing Service, Start Well Service, Voluntary and Community Sector, Housing Providers, I-Thrive Partnership, Adult Mental Health Services. Adult and Children's Substance Service, Domestic Abuse and Violence Services, Targeted Youth Support, Youth Offending Team. Child And Adolescent Mental Health Service, Complex Safeguarding Team, Probation Services.

Statutory support

All services with the additional involvement of Multi agency Safeguarding and Screening Service (MASSS), Children's Social Work teams, Children with Disabilities Team Complex Safeguarding Team, Short breaks for Disabled Children.

This will help me as...

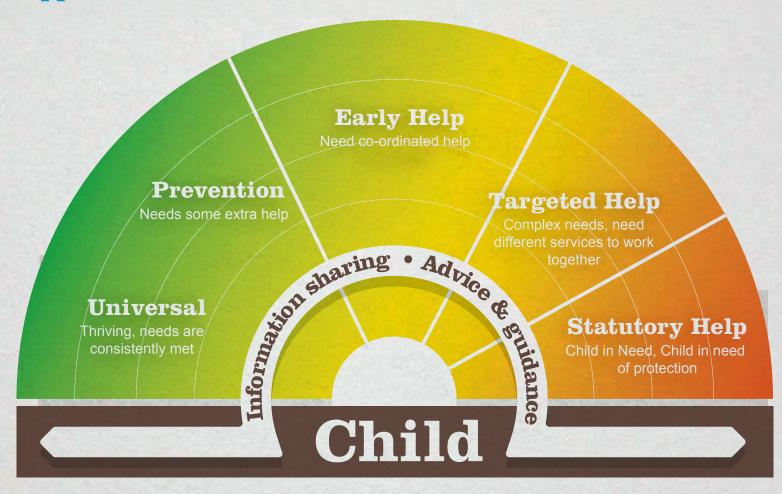
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...I make good progress in my development as me, my family and services work together ...me and my family have accessed, used and benefited from the help and support offered ...me and my family have been supported by practitioners who have worked well together and offered timely help

...me and my family have received help and support from skilled and knowledgeable practitioners ...I am safe from abuse or neglect as multiagency child protection practice is good ...I will grow up to be a confident and resilient adult



Help and support continuum



FAST TRACK -When a child is at risk or of significant harm





Bolton Safeguarding Children

This is a summary of the larger Threshold Document - "Framework for Action"

For further information please refer to the threshold document "Framework for Action" which can be found at **boltonsafeguardingchildren@bolton.gov.uk**

If you have concerns about a child please seek further help at **boltonsafeguardingchildren.org.uk/worried-child** or contact a member of our team on **01204 331500**

This document was published on July 2021. All information is correct at the time of production. While every effort has been taken to ensure this tool is accurate and up to date, Bolton Safeguarding Children Partnership will not be held responsible for any loss, damage, injury or inconvenience caused by any inaccuracies contained herein.