



Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership local information and resources

This booklet has been designed to read alongside any generic Introductory Safeguarding Children eLearning in order to add the local context to safeguarding children in Nottinghamshire, including the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Procedures, support services available and contact details of where to make referrals.

Assessment of needs

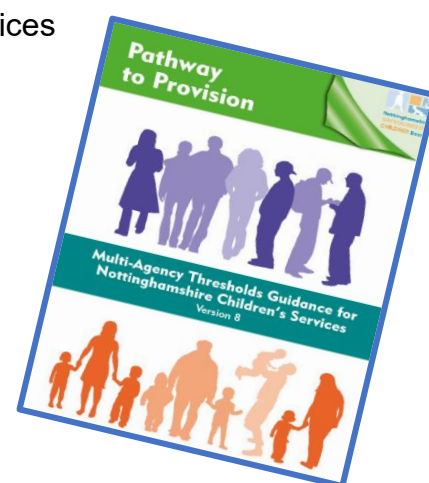
Pathway to Provision

This multi-agency threshold guidance provides definitions and indicators for practitioners to assist in the identification of levels of need for children and young people (from conception to 18 years, or 24 years if the young person has a learning difficulty or disability). All practitioners who work directly with children, young people and families and who may be the person to make a referral for support services and/or safeguarding purposes need to be aware of this document and familiarise themselves with the four levels of needs:

- Level 1 – Children in need of Universal Services
- Level 2 – Children in need of Early Help Services
- Level 3 – Children in need of Targeted Early Help Services
- Level 4 – Children in need of Specialist Services

This document is currently under review so will be changing in the near future and moving away from thresholds to focusing on needs.

www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/pathwaytoprovision



The role of early help

Early Help services are designed to support families before needs escalate to statutory intervention. (levels 1 to 3 in the Pathway to Provision).

You can:

- Contact the Early Help Unit to discuss concerns and seek advice
- Work with Early Help Advisers, who can help identify needs, guide interventions, and support decision-making Early Help services are designed to support families before needs escalate to statutory intervention.

Early Help Unit contact details:

Telephone: 0115 804 1248

Email: Early.help@nottsc.gov.uk

Web address: <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/care/early-years-and-childcare/childcare-providers/referring-to-early-help-services>

You can also email your local Early Help Advisers:

- Bassetlaw: EHA.Bassetlaw@nottsc.gov.uk
- Newark and Sherwood: EHA.NewarkandSherwood@nottsc.gov.uk
- Mansfield: EHAMansfield@nottsc.gov.uk
- Ashfield: EHAAshfield@nottsc.gov.uk
- Gedling: EHAGedling@nottsc.gov.uk
- Broxtowe: EHABroxtowe@nottsc.gov.uk
- Rushcliffe: EHARushcliffe@nottsc.gov.uk

The duty to refer

All practitioners have a responsibility to refer a child to children's social care (MASH) under section 11 of the Children Act 2004 if they believe or suspect that the child:

- Has suffered significant harm
- Is likely to suffer significant harm
- Has a disability, developmental and welfare needs which are likely only to be met through the provision of family support services (with agreement of the child's parent under the Children Act 1989)
- Is a Child in Need whose development would be likely to be impaired without provision of services

For most organisations the person who normally makes a safeguarding referral will be the manager, or the designated safeguarding lead.

Support prior to making a referral

The multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH) consultation line

The purpose of the consultation line is to further support colleagues in partner agencies to make appropriate and timely referrals to Children's Social Care (MASH) and to ensure the right decisions can be made in respect of children and families at the right time.

- The consultation line should only be used after partners have discussed a safeguarding situation with their agencies Designated Safeguarding Lead and are still unsure how to proceed.
- The Consultation Line will not replace any existing safeguarding processes and should only be used if further exploration around next steps is required.
- Professionals will be asked for their details, but the details of the children and family will remain anonymous and therefore consent to discuss concerns will not be required.
- The conversation will not be recorded by the social worker or in any capacity by Nottinghamshire County Council.

The Consultation Line will operate:

Monday	9am to 4pm
Tuesday	9am to 4pm
Wednesday	10:30am to 4pm
Thursday	9am to 4pm
Friday	9am to 3:30pm

Consultation line: 0115 977 4247

If you need to make a referral

You need to contact the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

This is only for all new safeguarding referrals, if the child or young person already has a social worker please contact them instead. (Referrals to MASH should relate to Level 4 of our Pathway to Provision).

The MASH

- If you think a child is at risk of abuse, please report this to MASH. Please note that from 6 July 2026, referrals to the MASH from practitioners about children must be made by phone, rather than using the online form or email address, which are being phased out. Telephone **0300 500 80 90**.
<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/care/childrens-social-care/nottinghamshire-children-and-families-alliance/pathway-to-provision/multi-agency-safeguarding-hub-mash>
- If you require an urgent response outside of working hours (8:30am to 5pm), contact the Emergency Duty Team (EDT) on Telephone 0300 456 4546

Guidance, support and advice

Inter-agency safeguarding procedures

These are joint safeguarding children's procedures for both Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnerships. These are multi-agency procedures and should be used in conjunction with any in-house safeguarding children's procedures your organisation may have. They are great resource to update your knowledge around safeguarding children, and around processes and procedures you should follow in order to keep children safe.

Sections include:

- **Core Safeguarding Procedures** (recognising abuse and neglect, referrals, assessment)
- **Safeguarding Guidance** (separate more depth guidance on variety of topics for example Child Sexual Abuse, On-Line Safety, Domestic Abuse etc)
- **Additional Resources** (contains useful templates, tools e.g. Bruising in non-mobile babies' pathway, Child Exploitation flowcharts, Safer Sleep Risk Assessment tool, Neglect Toolkit)
<https://nottinghamshirescp.trixonline.co.uk/resources/local-resources>

More resources can also be found on our interagency procedures site

<https://nottinghamshirescp.trixonline.co.uk/>

Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP) and our website

The Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership provides the safeguarding arrangements under which the safeguarding partners and relevant agencies work together to coordinate their safeguarding services. The Partnership is responsible for identifying and responding to the needs of children in Nottinghamshire, commissioning and publishing local child safeguarding practice reviews and providing scrutiny to ensure the effectiveness of the safeguarding arrangements. Visit the main NSCP website

<https://nscp.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/>

Our website is a great means of information. It includes:

- News and updates
- Training opportunities - including face to face training events and eLearning.
- Resources for professionals
- Access to the inter-agency procedures
- Learning from practice – learning identified from safeguarding children reviews

Families First Partnership Programme (FFPP)

The Families First Partnership Programme (FFPP) has been developed by the Department for Education to support safeguarding partners to implement family help and multi-agency child protection reforms and to make greater use of family group decision making. We are currently in the second year of this national programme and we will endeavour to keep you updated of the changes when they are implemented, but it may affect some of the content of this information booklet as services develop and progress rapidly across Nottinghamshire.

Find out more on the government's website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/families-first-partnership-programme>

The best way to keep up to date of the FFPP in Nottinghamshire is to sign up to receive the Families First Partnership Bulletins by emailing:

sarah.graley@nottscg.gov.uk