

# North Somerset Early Help: Let's Talk Tool

Child(ren)'s name(s) and pronouns:  
Parent(s) or carer's name and pronouns:

## What's working well?

This is where you record the good stuff! What do you/your family enjoy? Think about what you feel good about and the things that make you happy. What kind of support are you already benefitting from?

## What are we worried about?

Think about what's important to you and your family. This is where we record your concerns and what we have identified as a concern. What do you think could be better? What have you tried already?

### Family and environmental factors

Who lives at home with you? Do you get on well?  
Are there people around that can help when you need it?  
Is there anyone in the family that needs extra help or support?  
Has anyone you know been in trouble with the police recently? Do you ever worry that they might be?  
Are there any worries around substance use?

### Basic safety and protection

What's good about being at home? Is there anything that could make you feel happier there?  
Do you feel safe at home and with the people you spend time with?  
Do you feel well-supported and confident to meet the needs of everyone in the household?

### Developmental, physical and mental health

Do you feel well in yourself? Have you been to the doctors for anything recently?  
Do you have friends you're close with? Can you tell me about them?  
Do you ever feel especially low or worried?  
Do you or your child have special educational or additional needs, and are these being supported in a way that works for you?  
Have you noticed anyone in the family being over or under sensitive to light, noise, smells, taste, touch, or other senses?  
Do you notice any differences between how your child speaks, learns or acts, compared to other children their age?

### Learning and education

Have there been any problems at school? If there were, did you feel well-supported to deal with them?  
Do you go to school and/or work? How do you find it?  
What do you enjoy/feel you're good at?  
Do you get any extra support to help you learn? Has it been helpful?  
Do you feel like you have everything you need to support learning or playing together at home?

### Housing and finance

What's your home like? What do you like about it? Is there anything you wish was different?  
Do you feel safe where you live?  
Are there people in the family who work? What kind of work do they do?  
Are there any worries around paying for food or bills?

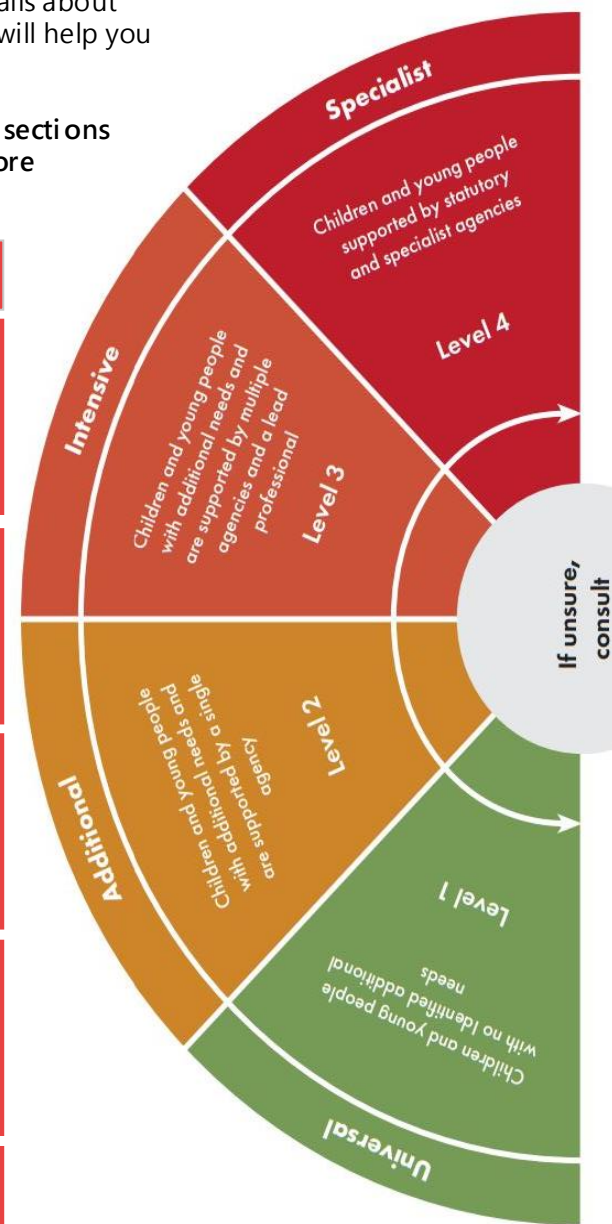
If you need guidance about how to use this tool to have a conversation with the family/child and how to plan the next steps, read the Early Help Strategy. *The questions provided under each headings are prompts only - you do not need to ask every one and they should be adapted according to who you're talking to and what the main worries are.*

# North Somerset Early Help Continuum of Need Tool

This tool should be used alongside *Effective Support for Children, Young People, and Families*, which provides more details about the levels of need and what you should do at each level. The responses to the questions in the Early Help Let's Talk Tool will help you place the child or family on the Continuum of Need.

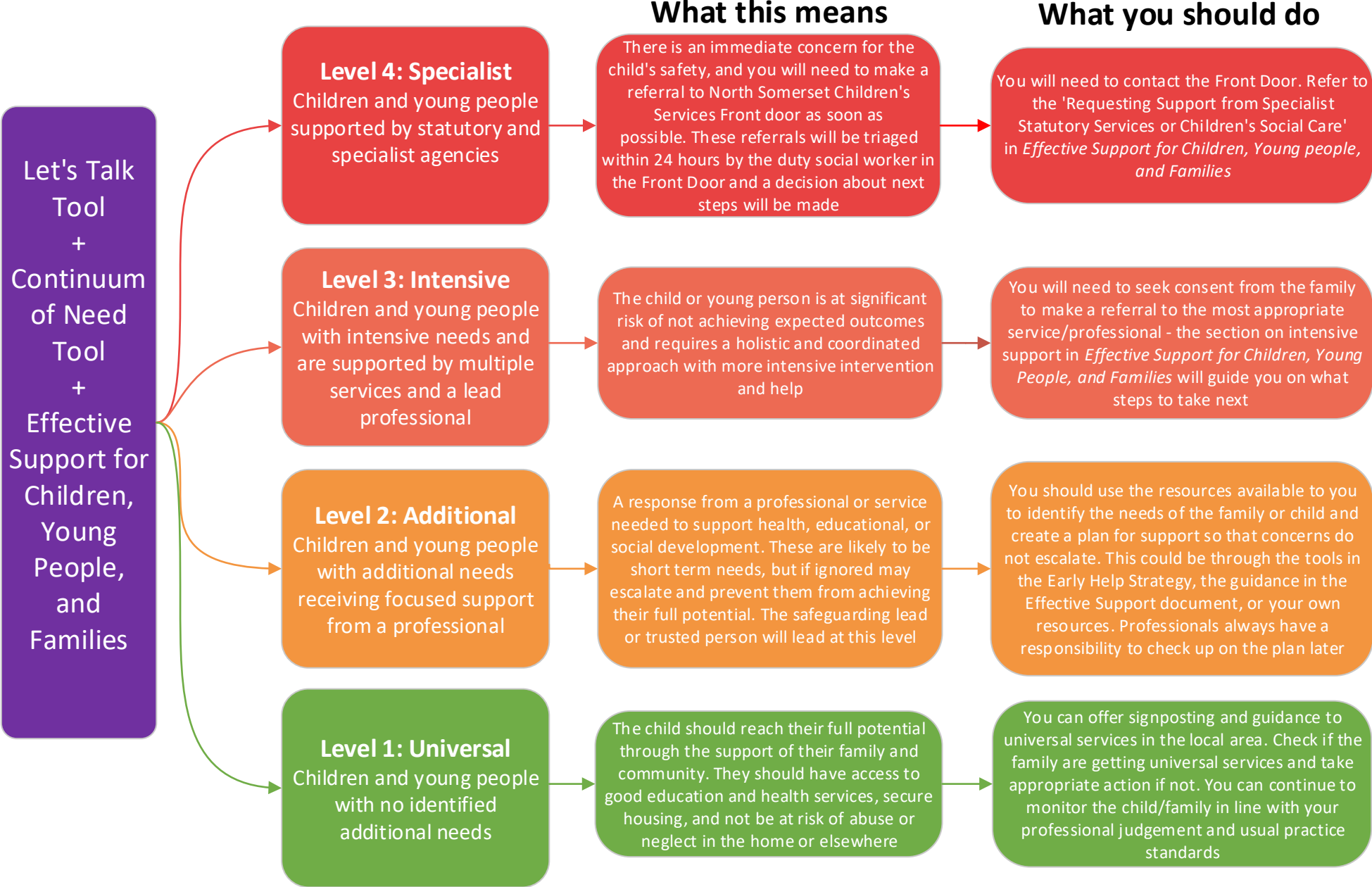
Your response should be informed by the highest level of need. For instance, if the response is additional for 4 of the sections below, intensive for 1, then the overall level of need should be deemed intensive. Read the *Early Help Strategy* for more guidance.

	Universal	Additional	Intensive	Specialist
Family and environmental factors	Stable relationships with caregivers, siblings, peers and age-appropriate friendships	Parents/Carers have relationship difficulties or there is frequent conflict which may affect the child	Risk of family relationship breakdown leading to need for child to become looked after outside of family network	Adults who present a risk to children living in the home. Family characterised by conflict and chronic relationship difficulties
Basic care, safety, and protection	Parents/Carers provide care for (unborn) child's needs and protect from danger in the womb, home, and elsewhere	Requiring advice/support on safe and appropriate childcare arrangements and safe home conditions	Parents/carers unable to protect from danger or significant physical or emotional harm in the home and elsewhere	Parents unable to provide adequate and safe parenting and child is immediately at risk of abusive situations
Developmental physical, and mental health	Health appointments, including antenatal, are kept and advice given is acted upon when required	Concern regarding diet/hygiene/clothing. Persistent minor health problems. Not attending routine appointments	Physical and emotional needs compromised/at risk. Not receiving support to reach developmental milestones and at risk of serious health concerns	Severe physical and mental health risks including substance abuse, sexual exploitation, FGM, physical and psychological abuse
Learning and education	Consistently attending an education provision appropriate to age and ability	Poor school or early years attendance/punctuality. Behaviour likely to lead to risk of exclusion	Child is not attending education regularly enough to achieve expected outcomes and may be excluded from school or attending PRU	Child is excluded from education or not attending an education/training provision of any kind.
Housing and finance	Living in suitable accommodation which presents no concerns around health or development. Not at risk of living in poverty	Inadequate/overcrowded housing. Living with poverty affecting access to services to meet child's additional needs	Overcrowded or poor-quality housing likely to impair health or development and no access to funding/community resources	Frequently missing from home or left home alone without adequate adult supervision or support and at risk of significant harm in the household



# North Somerset Council Early Help/Continuum of Need Pathway

After using the Let's Talk Tool to have an initial conversation with the family and the Continuum of Need Tool to work out where they may be on the continuum, you can use this pathway flowchart to plan next steps. You can read the *Early Help Strategy* and *Effective Support for Children, Young People, and Families* for more guidance.



# North Somerset Early Help Planning Tool

If you have circled 3 or more supporting families criteria in the Let's Talk Tool, then contact the North Somerset Council Family Wellbeing Team

	<p><b>What are we going to do?</b> This is where you record the actions that professionals will do to support the family with the things they're worried about.</p>	<p><b>How will we know things have improved?</b> What outcomes are we trying to achieve? What does 'good' look like for this child, young person or family?</p>	<p><b>What progress has been made?</b> Leave this column blank and then return to it after a set amount of time has passed. Has progress been made? What's changed? What else might we need to do?</p>	<p><b>Supporting Families Outcomes</b> Please circle any that apply.</p>
<p><b>Family and environmental factors</b></p>				<p>Needs support with: 1) Family relationships 2) Substance misuse 3) Issues with crime</p>
<p><b>Basic safety and protection</b></p>				<p>4) At risk of domestic abuse 5) Children at risk of abuse and exploitation</p>
<p><b>Developmental, physical and mental health</b></p>				<p>Needs support with: 6) Physical and mental health 7) Meeting developmental milestones</p>
<p><b>Education and learning</b></p>				<p>8) At risk of not getting a good education</p>
<p><b>Housing and finance</b></p>				<p>9) Insecure housing 10) Financial instability</p>