

The PSCP Threshold Document outlines:

- How different tiers of need are understood in Portsmouth and threshold criteria to access services in accordance with the tier of need
- The legal definition of 'children in need' and eligibility for Children's Social Care services
- Conversation opportunities to identify appropriate support for children and families

PSCB Threshold Document Principles

- Wherever possible all children's and families' needs will be met by universal services
- As soon as any professional is aware that a child has any 'additional needs', they should have a conversation with the child/ family and offer advice and support
- Our aim is to build resilience in children and families. In most cases, outcomes will only be improved by assisting parents/ carers to make change.
- We will help families find their own sustainable solutions. Once improvement is made, services will reduce so as to not create dependence.
- These principles support our restorative approach to practice in Portsmouth.
- Restorative practice is a way of behaving which helps build and maintain healthy relationships, resolve differences and repair harm where there has been conflict.
- We will support the development of family capacity, resilience and independence by building on strengths and enabling them to take responsibility for their stronger future.

Tiers of Need

- The four tiers of need identified in the windscreen diagram have been developed into a matrix of needs and risks in appendix 1 of the Thresholds Document.
- The matrix describes the circumstances in which additional support should be considered, when coordinated multi-agency provision might be more appropriate and when a contact/referral to Early Help & Prevention or Children & Family Services (via MASH) may be necessary
- The descriptions in this matrix should be included to support your contact to MASH, as they help to clearly evidence what tier of need you feel they meet



Sharing information with MASH

- If you have concerns about a family and want to share that information with MASH, you need 'consent' to do this.
- 'Consent' means you have had a conversation with the family regarding your concerns, clearly explaining what information will be shared and with whom. Gaining consent is imperative to keeping children safe and should be seen as best practice in the majority of situations.
- If you do not have 'consent' to share and the child is not at risk of or has suffered significant harm, MASH cannot accept details of a family or record anything on their system.
- You can share information without consent if the matter is an immediate child protection concern under Section 47 of the Children Act (however in most situations, we would need to tell the parents that we need to share information with MASH).



One Minute Guide PSCP Threshold Document



- You can share information without consent if you think that talking to the parents would place the child at risk of significant harm.

If you are unsure, please contact MASH for guidance.

How to make a referral

Contact Portsmouth MASH by telephone: 0845 6710271 / 023 92 688793

Emergency out of hours: 0300 5551373

Complete an [inter-agency contact form](#) and email it to MASH within 48 hours.

Email: MASH@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

www.portsmouthscp.org.uk/worried-about-a-child-suffering-from-harm/