

The following table provides a useful summary of factors which may be evident for a child with additional needs.

Children with Additional Needs:	
<p>Health and Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns re diet / hygiene/ clothing • Defaulting on health appointments • Not reaching developmental milestones • Few opportunities for play / socialisation • Substance and alcohol use concerns • Mental health concerns • Poor school attendance / exclusion • Experiencing bullying; • Additional educational needs; • Disengagement from education, training or employment post-16 • Difficulties with peer group relationships and with adults • Some evidence of inappropriate responses and behaviours • Finds it difficult to cope with anger, frustration and upset • Disruptive or anti-social behaviour; • Slow to development age appropriate self care skills • Disabilities 	<p>Parents and Carers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overt parental conflict or lack of parental support/boundaries; • Pregnancy and parenthood • Parental engagement with services is poor • Parent is struggling to provide adequate care • Previously looked after by Local Authority • Child previously subject of a Child Protection Plan • Concealed pregnancy • Perceived to be a problem by parents • Inconsistent boundaries • Mental health issues including post natal mental health needs • Substance & alcohol use issues <p>Family / Environmental Factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents have some conflict or difficulties that can involve the children • Has experienced loss of significant adult e.g. bereavement or separation • Young carers • Parent has physical / mental health • Family is socially isolated • Poor housing • Poverty • Involvement in / risk of offending • Poor access to universal services • Domestic abuse • Rural Isolation

Section 17 Child in Need

Some children with complex needs maybe children who are defined as being 'in need', under [S17 of the Children Act 1989](#). The criteria for S17 are those children whose vulnerability is such that they are unlikely to reach or maintain a satisfactory level of health or development, or their health and development will be significantly impaired, without the provision of services plus those who are disabled.

The following factors may be evident:

Health and Development	Parents and Carers
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Disability (permanent / substantial impairment of function)• Life threatening conditions• Severe Health Problems• Significant emotional and behavioural difficulties or significant mental health needs• Significant involvement in alcohol/ substance misuse• Suicide attempts• Neglects to use self-care skills due to alternative priorities e.g. substance use• Children whose behaviour has been sexually harmful• Family breakdown related in some ways to the child's behavioural difficulties• Children who are runaways or who put themselves in danger• Long term neglect which significantly impacts on child's development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Serious family relationship problems• Parenting is not safe• Previously subject to child protection plan• Physical or learning disability / mental ill health / are seriously ill / use substances• Children who are sexually exploited• Children who are homeless• Young Carers
	Family and Environment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Housing places child in danger• Extreme poverty impacting on ability to care for the child• Family chronically socially excluded• High risk domestic abuse

Section 47 Immediate Safeguarding

The table below includes those children where there is a need for immediate safeguarding identified under [S47 of the Children Act 1989](#), as they may have suffered or be at risk of suffering significant harm. These children would require an **immediate** referral to Children's Social Care and an Initial / Core assessment to be completed to better understand their needs.

Immediate Safeguarding:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children at immediate risk of significant harm including physical, sexual, emotional harm and neglect• Children with unexplained injuries, suspicious injuries or where there is an inconsistent explanation of the injury• Children from families experiencing a crisis likely to result in a breakdown of care arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Where there are serious concerns regarding the risk of significant harm to an unborn baby• Children who are remanded• Children who are engaged in criminal activity (refer to YOS)• Children who allege abuse• Vulnerable children who are left alone• Children whose parents are unable to provide care whether for physical, intellectual, emotional or social reasons

Children's Social Care is the lead agency for undertaking Section 17 and Section 47 enquiries. If YOU are in any doubt or would like to discuss particular concerns contact your line manager or the Team Manager based in the Customer Service Centre.