

## ROCHDALE'S RISK MODEL

**PRACTICE NOTE:**

The 'rule of optimism' or the 'start again' syndrome

**PRACTICE NOTE:**

The concept of 'cultural relativism'

Child Development	Parenting Capacity	Family & Environmental factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Difficult birth</li> <li>• Poorly as a baby, parent found it hard to feed, settle, stop crying</li> <li>• Irritable sleepless child</li> <li>• Child with communication difficulties</li> <li>• Child with physical disability</li> <li>• Poor attendance/attainment at school; reasons unacceptable and 'friends' collecting</li> <li>• Low self esteem</li> <li>• Bullied</li> <li>• Large number of siblings, especially under 5 years</li> <li>• Behavioural/emotional difficulties</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Own experience of poor parenting</li> <li>• Low educational attainment</li> <li>• Physical or learning disability</li> <li>• Previous history of offending or anti- social behaviour</li> <li>• Rejecting or antagonistic of support</li> <li>• Own behavioral/ emotional difficulties</li> <li>• Young, inexperienced parent</li> <li>• Lone parent</li> <li>• Low level mental health</li> <li>• Difficulties or substance misuse and/or Domestic Abuse</li> <li>• Victimisation of own abuse/neglect</li> <li>• Poor attendance at own health appointments</li> <li>• Inconsistent parenting, poor supervision</li> <li>• Parents using child to seek attention</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poverty</li> <li>• Poor Housing Overcrowding</li> <li>• Unemployment</li> <li>• Lack of support networks/isolation</li> <li>• Cluttered/ untidy home conditions</li> <li>• Uncertain immigration status</li> <li>• Reconstructed family</li> <li>• Death/loss of significant relationship or friendship</li> <li>• Unrelated males/lodger caring for the children</li> </ul>

**HIGH  
RISK**

Past behaviour is the best predictor of future behaviour

Toxic Trio: when all three factors are present (Domestic Abuse, mental health & substance misuse)

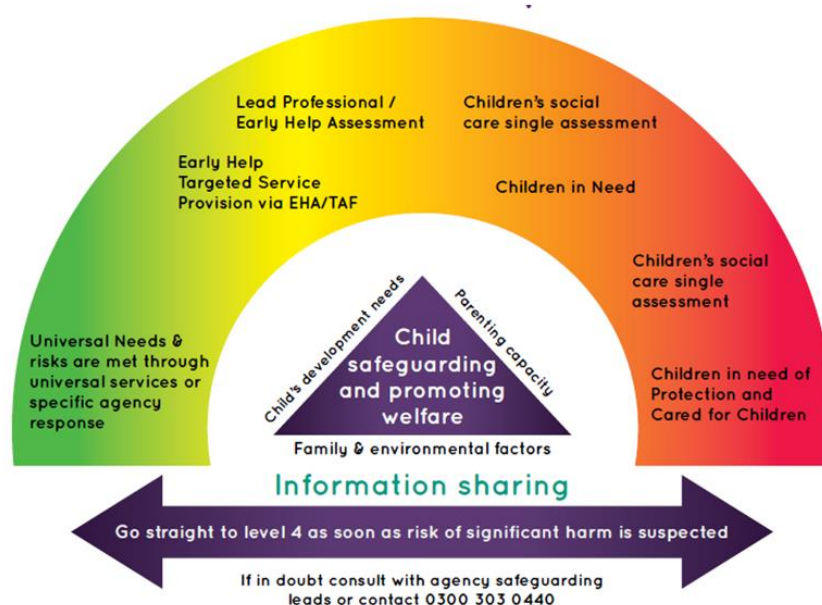
The absence of evidence is NOT evidence of absence. DO NOT rely on self- reporting – where is the evidence?

Child Development	Parenting Capacity	Family & Environmental factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Age of child – under 3</li> <li>• Child's basic needs for food, warmth, shelter not being met</li> <li>• Child scapegoated or singled out for different treatment</li> <li>• Self harming, engaged in ASB, fire setting, running away</li> <li>• Missed health appointments</li> <li>• Child being harmed: frequency &amp; duration &amp; intensity of harmful event.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Domestic Abuse</li> <li>• Uncontrolled mental ill health</li> <li>• Chaotic substance misuse</li> <li>• Previous allegations of child abuse to own children</li> <li>• History of being harmed as a child</li> <li>• Record of previous violent/sexual offending (against children or adults)</li> <li>• Cognitive distortions about violence/sexual behaviour</li> <li>• Failure or denial of responsibility of child abuse or neglect</li> <li>• Unwilling/unable to put child's needs first</li> <li>• Inability to keep own self safe</li> <li>• Disguised compliance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frequent moves</li> <li>• High levels of debt</li> <li>• Overcrowding</li> <li>• Serial relationships</li> <li>• Enforced isolation</li> <li>• Extended family involved in anti-social behaviour or criminal activity</li> </ul>

Child Development	Parenting Capacity	Family & Environmental factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secure early relationship with at least one main carer</li> <li>Secure attachments</li> <li>Planned pregnancy &amp; birth</li> <li>Easy temperament as an infant</li> <li>Positive attitude &amp; problem solving approach</li> <li>Good communication &amp; social skills</li> <li>Sense of humour</li> <li>Capacity to reflect</li> <li>Good self-esteem</li> <li>Attends &amp; enjoys school</li> <li>Health needs being met</li> <li>Positive hopes &amp; aspirations for the future rather than a hostile or rejecting outlook</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least one good parent/child relationship</li> <li>Affection &amp; emotional warmth</li> <li>Parent can anticipate child's needs ('in tune')</li> <li>Clear &amp; consistent discipline &amp; boundaries</li> <li>Accessing educational support &amp; opportunities</li> <li>Supportive &amp; stable long term relationship</li> <li>Puts child's needs first</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wide supportive networks</li> <li>Good standard of housing</li> <li>Good standard of living</li> <li>High morale school with positive policies for behaviour/attendance /anti-bullying</li> <li>School with academic &amp; non-academic opportunities</li> <li>Access community facilities</li> <li>Range of sport &amp; leisure opportunities</li> <li>Close supportive community</li> <li>Positive relationships with at least one extended family member</li> <li>Agencies describe good communication with parents &amp; availability</li> </ul>

ANALYSIS OF RISK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>What are the underlying and high risk factors present in this family?</b></li> <li><b>What is the frequency, duration and intensity of the risk factors you are worried about?</b></li> <li><b>How likely are they to do it again?</b></li> <li><b>What is the impact on the child?</b></li> <li><b>What is the parent's capacity to do something about it and to sustain those changes?</b></li> <li><b>What's been tried, what has worked, what hasn't?</b></li> <li><b>What are the protective and resilience factors?</b></li> <li><b>What has been the family's level of co-operation? Turning up is not enough.</b></li> </ul>

**What level of need best matches the risks you have identified?**



# The Framework sets out 4 levels of need

## Level 1 Universal

### Low Risk. Step up/Step down

Children, young people and families whose needs and risks are/can be met by universal services or simple, specific agency response.

**Please note:** different agencies have different levels of resource and there will consequently be some variation in the needs they can meet at level 1.

## Level 3 Child in Need

### Medium & Escalating Risk. Step up/Step down

Children, young people and families who have complex needs. They are experiencing sustained and persistent problems that it has not been possible to resolve at previous levels. They are unlikely to meet developmental milestones without statutory assessment by a social worker and concerted, co-ordinated multi-agency support.

## Level 2 Early Help

### Low to Medium Risk. Step up/Step down

These children will be living in greater adversity than most other children or have a greater degree of vulnerability than most if their needs are not clear, not known or not being met and multi-agency intervention is required, using the Early Help Assessment/Team Around the Family.

## Level 4 - Child Protection

### High Risk

These children have significant unmet needs and are being subjected to high risk factors. Without a statutory, co-ordinated response they will continue to suffer or be at risk of suffering significant harm. They will be supported through Child Protection or Looked After processes.