

# Vulnerable Adolescents Overview

**Laura Eden**  
**Head of Safeguarding and Quality**  
**Assurance**  
**Safeguarding and Family Support**



# Early Help

Providing early help is more effective in promoting the welfare of children than reacting later. Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life, from the foundation years through to the teenage years

- **Targeted** services are also available to help families with multiple problems who are likely to require statutory services if they do not receive early help, or who need further support when their social work involvement ends. They may still have some practical problems, or need support to maintain changes.
- 2016-17 Early Help Services (CC, FF, IFIT, TYS) 1,804 families supported, 31% of children are between the ages of 11 and 15.

*Taylor's parents are having financial difficulties, they have been served with an eviction notice and Taylor's mother has lost her job as a teaching assistant and is said to be depressed. Taylor's school attendance is 80%.*

# Child in Need

Under section 17 Children Act 1989, a child will be considered in need if:

- they are unlikely to achieve or maintain or to have the opportunity to achieve or maintain a reasonable standard of health or development without provision of services from the Local Authority;
- their health or development is likely to be significantly impaired, or further impaired, without the provision of services from the Local Authority;
- they have a disability.

544 children currently over 10 years old (44% of the total CIN popn) of which 106 are classed as having a severe disability and are known to the Disabled Children's Team

*Taylor's parents had an argument whilst she was sleeping upstairs, the argument escalated to violence where Taylor's father pushed her mother who hit her head.*

# Child Protection

Is the protection of children from violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect.

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 defines Abuse as:

- A form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others (e.g. via the internet). They may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children.
- The categories for Child Protection Plans are:

Physical Abuse 5 ,Emotional Abuse 32, Sexual Abuse 4, Neglect 34

*Taylor arrived in school very quiet and withdrawn, she told her teacher that there was “screaming all night” and that when she woke up her mother had a bruised eye, nose and cheek.*

# Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond the child's developmental capacity, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploring and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyberbullying) causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

# Looked After Child

A child is looked after by a local authority if s/he is subject to:

- An Interim Care Order- 20
- A Care Order- 127
- Secure Order- 2
- Voluntary accommodation agreed by parent or child (over 16)- 106
- Other: Remand, Police Protection, Placement Order
- Adolescents -75% of total CLA population, increase of 22% over 3 years

*4 months later on a routine unannounced Social Work visit, Taylor's father's shoes and clothes were seen in the family home. The next day the social worker visited Taylor at school to discuss this, she said her father had moved back in, the arguing was worse and worse and there was "fighting" at least twice a week. Taylor showed the social worker a 5 inch cut across her upper arm where she had been hit by a broken wine bottle as she tried to protect her mother*