

Children with the potential need for early help who therefore may be more vulnerable



Appendix D: Children with the potential need for early help who therefore may be more vulnerable

[Working Together to Safeguard Children](#) states practitioners need to be alert to the potential need for early help for a child who:

- is disabled
- has special educational needs (whether or not they have a statutory education, health and care (EHC) plan)
- is a young carer
- is bereaved
- is showing signs of being drawn into anti-social or criminal behaviour, including being affected by gangs and county lines and organised crime groups and/or serious violence, including knife crime
- is frequently missing and, or goes missing from care or from home
- is at risk of modern slavery, trafficking, sexual and, or criminal exploitation
- is at risk of being radicalised
- is viewing problematic and, or inappropriate online content (for example, linked to violence), or developing inappropriate relationships online
- is in a family circumstance presenting challenges for the child, such as drug and alcohol misuse, adult mental health issues and domestic abuse
- is misusing drugs or alcohol themselves
- is suffering from mental ill health
- has returned home to their family from care
- is a privately fostered child
- has a parent or carer in custody
- is missing education, or persistently absent from school, or not in receipt of full-time education
- has experienced multiple suspensions and is at risk of, or has been permanently excluded

I and, or we also recognise that in addition to the above, other factors can increase a child's vulnerability to abuse, exploitation, or neglect such as:

- is showing early signs of abuse, neglect and, or emotional and, or mental ill health.
- not in education (elective home education)
- children who need a social worker (Child in Need and Child Protection Plans)
- children who require mental health support
- looked after children and previously looked after children
- children who are, or maybe lesbian, gay, bi, or trans (LGBTQ+)
- in a family circumstance presenting challenges for the child, such as parental substance (drugs and, or alcohol) misuse, adult mental health issues and domestic abuse
- being an asylum seeker and, or refugee
- being from a 'new community'
- living away from home, including private fostering arrangements, or have returned home to their family from care
- are at risk of homelessness or living in temporary accommodation
- living in chaotic, neglectful, and unsupportive home situations
- vulnerable to discrimination and maltreatment on the grounds of age, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity leave, disability, race (including colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin), religion or belief, gender, sex, or sexual orientation
- not speaking or not having English as a first language
- being involved in the court system