



Needs Assessment Tool (NAT) Level Descriptors

The need level descriptors should be used to understand why a child is identified at a particular level. These descriptors are broad and aim to define typical characteristics within each need level based on the responses to the NAT.

NAT Level 1

Child or young person's behaviour is within the usual range for a person of their age, allowing for the impact of being placed away from their family and the expected unsettling effect this would have.

NAT Level 2

Child or young person's behaviour shows above average indicators of trauma, developmental delay, attachment issues or other concerns that require increased support and/or assessment.

NAT Level 3

Child or young person's behaviour and associated needs require regular additional support and management. They may struggle with one or more aspect of functioning and their behaviours have an impact on their daily life. These can generally be managed with consistent parenting and some additional support as appropriate.

NAT Level 4

Child or young person struggles significantly with more than one aspect of functioning and the associated behaviours impact consistently on their life. The child or young person requires specialist support services to manage these additional and complex needs.

NAT Level 5

Child or young person has complex or extremely complex needs that have a significant impact on multiple areas of functioning. They require specialist services and considerable additional supports to assist them on a daily basis.