

Children with a Disability Eligibility for Support

Introduction

Local authorities are required to assess whether a child has needs for care and support. A disabled child is presumed to need care and support in addition to, or instead of, the care and support provided by the child's family. This means that in most cases a local authority will be obliged to assess the needs of a disabled child.

The criteria for the Disabled Children's Team establishes the threshold at which a referral, in relation to a child with a disability, will be accepted on the basis that the child requires a specialist social care assessment.

The Disabled Children's Team will offer a specialist social care assessment where the following complex needs are present-

- A severe or profound physical disability
- Significant or profound sensory disability
- Progressive conditions and complex medical needs
- Life limiting illness
- Epilepsy which is having a significant impact on the child's health and development
- Severe development delay and/or severe challenging behaviour arising from a disability
- A level of autism that severely impacts on day to day functioning
- Children with more than one moderate difficulty in learning, communication, hearing, vision, hand function and mobility or personal care will also be considered.

Criteria in practice

A disabled child will be eligible for a service if they fulfil one or more of the following criteria

- There must be a formal diagnosis
- has already had a Cognitive Assessment, which indicated a profound, severe or moderate learning disability (i.e. IQ below 70 along with reduced functional ability)
- Attends a special school (e.g. Crownbridge)
- Has a special educational needs statement for severe learning difficulties and attends another type of school
- Attends a moderate learning difficulty school or a mainstream school or college but has more than 1 communication, sensory or physical disabilities or medical difficulties that together have a substantial effect on daily living and so requires constant and

continuous support and supervision throughout the day or is dependent on an adapted environment or special technology

- Has a significant visual or hearing impairment or both.

Occupational Therapist Involvement:

The occupational therapist will become involved if

- A child/young person is presented with one or more, of the listed, complex needs.
- An O.T assessment is required if a family are planning on moving properties and have a child with complex needs.
- If a child requires short term intervention, such as the provision of equipment following surgery/hospital discharge.
- If a child has a physical disability/ significant Learning disability/ significant ASD requiring assessment for equipment/adaptation to a property/or re housing
- If a child is hoisted or requires a Manual Handling risk assessment.

The following are not included in the eligibility criteria:

- Mental health disorders unless in conjunction with a primary learning, physical or communication disability
- Social, emotional and behavioural problems not associated with a disability
- A diagnosis of ADHD or ADD unless in conjunction with a substantial and permanent learning, physical or communications disability

Eligibility will be decided on the basis of the information received from parents/carers, health and education professionals and observations and assessment made by the Disabled Children Team.

Our contact details

For more information contact:

Disabled Children's Team

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