

**Eligibility Criteria for children and young people aged 0 – 17 for Together For Children Sunderland Children with Disability Team**

The Disabled Children Team within Together for Children Sunderland offers support to children and young people with a disability. To decide what support is appropriate an Assessment of Need must be undertaken.

When a referral to the Team is received from ICRT (Integrated Contact and Referral Team), a Social Worker will be allocated to undertake the Assessment of Need.

Following this Assessment, a decision will be made as to whether the child or young person is eligible to receive a service from the Team. To ensure that our services are targeting to the appropriate children and young people an Eligibility Criteria is applied

This criterion is explained within this document and within the accompanying guidance notes. The intention of the criteria is to ensure that we do not simply consider the diagnosis that a child or young adult may have; we will also look at the effects their disability has on their day to day life.

To be eligible for support and services from the Children with Disability Team the following criteria must be met:

1. Be aged between 0 and 17 and be ordinarily resident in Sunderland.
2. Have complex needs (in addition to any behavioural problems that may be present), or have a serious or life threatening illness.
3. There must be evidence that the child or young person's additional needs impact significantly on their ability to enjoy ordinary day to day activities.
4. The child or young adult must require a much greater level of day to day care to meet their needs than would usually be required for a person of that age.
5. They must require a significantly higher level of support in at least three of the following areas than would usually be required for their age:
  - a) Personal care and supervision
  - b) Education or employment
  - c) Access to social activities
  - d) Communication
  - e) The physical environment
  - f) Condition management
6. The child or young person condition is life limiting,

Referral to the Team can be made through the Together for Children Sunderland website or contact Children's Integrated contact and referral team on 0191 561 7007

When making a referral, professionals should use the appropriate referral form and give as much information as possible, including contact details for themselves and the family, and should be clear that they have consent from the family to make the referral.

### **Eligibility Criteria Guidance Notes**

These notes are intended to give referrers some guidance on the types of things that they should consider in Section 5 of the Eligibility Criteria (note that this is not an exhaustive list). A child is likely to be regarded as needing a high level of support in these areas if some or all of the following points apply.

#### **Personal care and supervision**

- The child or young person needs lifting or carrying.
- The child or young person needs help with toileting, bathing and dressing.
- The child or young person needs assistance with feeding.
- The child's sleeping is interrupted on a regular basis, and they need adult intervention during these waking periods.
- The main carer has very few people apart from themselves who are both able and willing to look after the child or young adult.
- The main carer has to be on call to deal with problems arising when the child or young person is away from the home e.g. in education, employment, day placement etc. This should be over and above what would usually be expected of a carer when their child is away from home.
- The child or young person needs constant monitoring and assessing of their environment due to safety issues and potential hazards. This should be beyond that usually required for a child or young person of that age.

#### **Education or Employment**

- The child or young people has an Education, Health and Care Plan
- The child requires significant support within the school/college environment and would not be able to attend without this.
- A younger child is receiving specialist pre-school intervention e.g. portage, assessment unit.

#### **Access to social activities**

- The child needs physical support to access social, leisure and recreational activities and/or where additional equipment or specialist access is required to facilitate activities.
- The child requires supervision for safety issues beyond that usually needed for a person of a similar age.
- Support is needed to enable the child to have appropriate friendships or where family relationships are replacing peer friendships due to their disability.
- The child's leisure activities are limited to the home environment due to their disability. This may also affect the opportunity of the wider family to enjoy day to day activities and opportunities.

### Communication

- An alternative or supplemental communication system is needed in order for the child to communicate e.g. PECS, sign language, electronic aids.
- The child's disability means that they are unlikely to develop intelligible verbal communication.
- The child is unable to understand language used around them without direct support.
- The child is unable to join in with social activities without direct support with communication.
- The child may have some processing difficulties which affect their social use of language and ability to understand things in context.

### The physical environment

- A wheelchair, major buggy or other movement aid is needed.
- Direct supervision is needed to manage safety issues within the home environment beyond that which would usually be expected for a child of that age.
- A level of direct supervision is needed for all outings outside of the home beyond that which would usually be expected for a child of that age.
- There is a need for the provision of safety equipment such as gates, locks etc where these would not usually be required for a child of that age.
- Specialist aids and adaptations are required due to sensory impairment.

### Condition Management

- The child needs daily assistance with administering drugs, taking oxygen, giving physiotherapy, giving injections, using medical equipment etc.
- The child needs to attend frequent appointments and the main carer must attend with them. The main carer must liaise with many professionals.
- The child is tube fed.
- The child has had or is about to have major surgery and a lengthy period of recuperation is expected.
- The child or young adult is receiving invasive therapy for conditions such as cancer e.g. chemotherapy, radiotherapy.
- The child has frequent hospital admissions or needs frequent emergency medical intervention for conditions that are not well controlled by medication e.g. asthma, epilepsy.
- The child receives daily input of therapy by family members following programmes devised by professionals.
- A child with autism may require their home environment to be maintained in a specific way e.g. low stimulus, need to follow strict routines.

### **General Notes**

Referral can be made through the Together for Children website whose details are below:

For a CHILD or YOUNG PERSON (aged under 18) go to

[www.togetherforchildren.org.uk/what-we-do/concerned](http://www.togetherforchildren.org.uk/what-we-do/concerned) where you can make a referral to Together for Children Sunderland by downloading and completing the Child Protection/Child in Need Referral Form (this is the interagency referral form). .

If you need any additional guidance or information you can speak to a trained social worker in Together for Children's Integrated Contact and Referral Team on 0191 561 7007 (available 8.30am to 5.00pm Monday - Thursday, 8.30am to 4.30pm Friday); or the Out of Hours Team on 0191 520 5552 (also available 24 hours Saturday and Sunday).

If, following an Assessment of Needs, a decision is made that the child or young person is not eligible for services; the allocated Social Worker will clearly explain to the family the reasons for this decision. The Social Worker will signpost to other services if appropriate.

Please note, the eligibility criteria must be met in order to receive paid services. The eligibility criteria will be applied and it is only once this is met that the identified personal budget can be accessed.

Involvement from the Children with Disability Team will be regularly reviewed to ensure that this is still appropriate. For example, some children or young adults may need temporary support with illnesses such as cancers that will not be required once their treatment is finished.

Any services provided following an Assessment of Need will be reviewed every 6 months to ensure that they are still appropriate. The review may result in no changes, a change to the agreed service, an increase or decrease in the amount of service or the withdrawal of the service if the need is no longer apparent or eligibility criteria are no longer met.

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putting  
the child first

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