



North Tyneside Council

Date: June 2019

Title: Criteria for Children's Disability Team

North Tyneside Children's Disability Team Criteria

Under the Children Act 1989, disabled children are regarded as 'children in need'. Identifying the social care needs of disabled children and young people does not necessarily require an assessment by a social worker, however, in the majority of cases, needs are met through universal services or early help. North Tyneside Council provides an excellent range of support to children with disabilities and their families which includes social and leisure opportunities, carer support and fully accessible facilities. Full details can be found on the Local Offer:

<https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/category/1243/local-offer-special-educational-needs-and-disabilities-send>

The Children's Disability Team (CDT) is a small specialist team of social workers who provide advice and support to children and young people with severe and complex disabilities until the age of 18. The term disability covers a broad spectrum of needs and it is not always easy to define what severe and complex means as it can be different for different people. Typically, the CDT provide support to children and young people whose ability to stay safe, to enjoy and to achieve is significantly impaired by their disability and would be further impaired without the provision of services. The pathway to the CDT is via a Single Assessment undertaken by the Front Door
<https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/category/488/are-you-worried-about-child>

This assessment is holistic and will consider the needs of family members including young carers. If the criteria for the CDT is not met, alternative support may be offered and this can differ according to each child's individual circumstances.

Appropriate referrals to the CDT include:

- Children and young people with moderate or severe learning disabilities (not learning difficulties)
- Children with complex physical disabilities and health needs.

The Children's Disability Team is unable to work with children whose main issue is their emotional and/or behavioural development or whose main need for support is connected to a mental health problem. We are unable to provide support to children

with Autism, unless the child also has a moderate or severe learning disability. Similarly, they are unable to support children with Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD) unless accompanied by a complex disability.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services are better placed to offer information and advice in these instances.

<https://www.northumbria.nhs.uk/our-services/childrens-services/child-and-adolescent-mental-health-service-camhs/>

If your child does have a learning disability or you would like to ask for an assessment then you could talk to their General Practitioner or further advice could be obtained from Community Learning Disabilities Team which consists of a number of different professionals. More information can be found here

<https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/category/1341/health>

The Children's Disability Team is unable to work with children who have dyscalculia, dyspraxia and dyslexia as support is available through school and therapy services.

The Children's Disability Team is unable to work with children with visual and/or hearing loss unless they also have a complex disability. The Sensory Service at Beacon Hill is able to provide advice and support to these children on a long term basis.

<http://northtynesidesensoryservice.org.uk/>

The Children's Disability Team is committed to working in partnership to ensure children meet their desired outcomes, maximise their independence and prepare them for adulthood.

To contact the Children's Front Door Service call 0345 2000 109 or click on the link

<https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/category/488/are-you-worried-about-child>