



Disabled Children and Young People's Team (Social Care)

Eligibility and Functions

This document outlines the eligibility for support from the team, the pathways or referral routes and the function of the team including assessment, care planning, reviewing and preparing young people for adulthood.

1. Introduction

The Disabled Children and Young People's Team is part of the Special Educational Needs and Disability Service. The team is a specialist service supporting and safeguarding children and young people with complex health and learning needs. Within the service there are three Assessment and Support Teams focusing on the needs of children under 18.

This documents offers clarity as to the structure and processes within the service for all stakeholders including children, young people and their families as well as other agencies such as schools and health partners.

2. Structure

The Disabled Children and Young People's Team consists of three teams overseen by 3 Practice Leads. The team is within the Education Directorate and maintains close links with Children and Adult Social Care Services.

The structure is as follows:

1 Group Manager

3 Practice Leaders

- Assessment and Support Team 1
- Assessment and Support Team 2
- Assessment and Support Team 3

The team access occupational therapy support through a contracted service Able2 who complete assessments and reviews.

3. Social Care Eligibility Criteria

In order to receive support from the Disabled Children and Young People's Team a child or young person must first meet criteria for support from Children Social Care.

3.1 Children

The initial contact with Children's Services is the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) Team. This team makes an initial decision as to whether an assessment is required based on the London Consortium Continuum of Help and Support 2016. This has been used to develop Newham's Pathways to help and support as indicated below.



If the level of need is such that an assessment is required (Level 3 and 4) this is referred to Disabled Children and Young People's Team where the concern or risk relates to a child's disability. Where the concern or risk is either of a safeguarding nature or relates to the whole family this is assessed by the Assessment Team. For instance a case where domestic violence is impacting on all the children will be assessed by the Assessment Team.

The MASH is operational 9am to 5pm and the Disabled Children and Young People's Team provide a social worker within the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub 9am - 2.30 pm to support information gathering and decision making.

3.2 Adult

A young person open to the Disabled Children and Young People's Team who are aged 17 years old will have an adult care (The Care Act 2014) assessment, where applicable. This will be completed by the Preparing for Adulthood Team who sit in adult services to determine whether they are eligible for adult social care support. Arrangements are put in place to ensure a smooth transition to the Preparing for Adulthood Team on their 18th birthday. The Disabled Children and Young People's Team will retain case responsibility until the young person is transferred to adult services at 18.

New referrals for adults are made through Adult Social Care Access Team. If required and where the adult has an Education, Health and Care Plan, they are referred to the Preparing for Adulthood Team within Adult Services for an assessment.

4. Disabled Children and Young People's Team Criteria

The Disabled Children and Young People's Team works with children and young people with complex needs relating to a learning disability and/ or physical disability. A specific diagnosis does not automatically mean that a child would be eligible or is best supported within the team. The team's focus is with children with significant needs and will fit one or more of the criteria outlined below:

- Severe or profound learning disability
- Severe or profound physical disability
- Complex health needs expected to last more than one year
- Severe or profound communication difficulties
- Severe development delay

Examples of children and young people who would meet the criteria would be a family in need of support in relation to non verbal child with autism or a child with limited mobility and associated health issues requiring constant use of a wheelchair. Examples of children and young people who would not meet the criteria for the team are children with high functioning autism or a child requiring a wheelchair for a few months following an accident or operation.

Within Newham we feel it is important that families only have one social worker and point of contact. The decision as to which Team will be based on the individual families circumstances. As general guide families where the concerns or risks are focussed on the child's disability will be managed with the Disabled Children and Young People's Team and those where concerns or risks relate to all the family will be managed within one of the Intervention Teams.

5. Children and Young People under 18

5.1 Single Assessments

Where children are considered potentially eligible for social care support they are assessed using the Assessment Framework shown below. There are three main areas considered to determine the support required:

- Child's Developmental Needs
- Parenting Capacity
- Family and Environmental Factors



It is important to note that whilst a child may have significant needs where families have the ability and support available they may not require or be eligible for social care support. However other families where a child's disability does not impact significantly on a day to day basis but where there are issues around parenting capacity ability and limited support networks, social care support may be needed. The decision as to whether the child is eligible for social care support is based on the Newham Pathway to help and support criteria with children assessed as needing Level 3 and 4 support being allocated a social worker.

During the assessment of a child or young person consideration is given to which team is best placed to meet needs in line with Disabled Children and Young People's Team criteria. The team will provide assistance to the Assessment Team if there is specific issues around disability which require specialist assessment.

5.2 Planning, Reviewing and Visiting

Following an assessment by the Disabled Children and Young People's Team a Child in Need plan is drawn up with families to meet needs. This may involve continued social care input from the team such as a care package, direct payments, other short break provision, social work intervention, signposting or referring to other agencies.

Where it is agreed that the Disabled Children and Young People's Team will continue to be involved, the Child in Need plan is reviewed and updated every six months to monitor progress with families. The Practice Leader for the Team will chair these meetings and updated plans and minutes will be provided to families.

The social worker will visit families at least every 4 to 6 weeks to ensure the support is having a positive impact. However for some cases where there is an established support package in place, the visiting frequency would be determined by the Practice Leader or Group Manager and recording this on the child's file. However the minimum visiting frequency will be every 6 weeks unless there are exceptional circumstances for increasing to 8 weekly.

5.3 Change of circumstances

Where there is a change of circumstances identified either at a Child in Need review or by the social worker a new single assessment will be completed to inform a revised child in need care plan and the support level required.

As a minimum a single assessment will be completed on a child every two years by social workers to ensure the support in place is meeting the needs of the child.

5.4 Transfer Panel

Following assessment or Child in Need review if it is felt that the child should be supported by another team e.g. early help or an intervention team this is managed through the normal transfer process and confirmed at the Transfer Panel.

5.5 Support Available

Social Care

Following a single assessment, subject to eligibility, a care plan is developed to support the child and the family. Where support is above what is available within the community or from other services a care package may be developed. This could include a direct payment, provision of agency care or respite care.

Where there are cost implications this needs to be agreed by the relevant Manager depending on their authorisation level and the Care Package Panel. Social Workers will provide details of needs and risks and the potential options so that a decision can be made to best meet the needs of the child.

Universal/ Targeted – Local Offer

All children with disabilities and their families should be able to access universal support such as sports centres, museums, parks and other activities.

Additional targeted activities are available such as cinema sessions for children with autism. Both universal and targeted activities are promoted through Newham's Local Offer: www.families.newham.gov.uk

6. Young Adults

6.1 Preparing for Adulthood

The Preparing for Adulthood Team in Adult Services work closely with the Disabled Children and Young People's Team where a young person is open prior to their 18th birthday. The young people will be assessed by the Preparing for Adulthood Team as to their eligibility for adult social care in line with the Care Act 2014. If eligible they will be allocated on their 18th birthday to the Preparing for Adulthood Team and will remain within that service until they complete their formal education within a school or college or until the age of 25 years old, whichever is sooner. At this point the young person is transferred to the relevant long term Adult Social Care team.

For new referrals, where the adult is in education and they have an Education, Health and Care Plan, the Preparing for Adulthood team will complete an assessment for eligibility based on the Care Act 2014, otherwise the case will be managed within one of the long term Adult Social Care teams. The Access Team in Adult Social Care is the first point of contact for new referrals.

6.2 Adult Social Care Eligibility Criteria

Adult Social Care assessments are based on the Care Act 2014 and the eligibility criteria is different. For further information on adults criteria please see https://adultsocialcare.newham.gov.uk/Pages/adult_social_care.aspx

7. Carers Assessments

A carer has the right to a Carer's Assessment where they are caring for a child with a disability or a young person.

Where a child or young person with a disability is being assessed by the Disabled Children and Young People's Team, the single assessment or Adult Social Care Assessment will consider the carer within the assessment. However carers have the right to an individual assessment and this will be completed where felt appropriate or requested.

8. Social Care Contact Details

MASH Team	-	Children's Social Care	0203 373 4600
Access Team	-	Adult Social Care	0208 430 2000
Disabled Children and Young People's Team			0203 373 3280
Preparing for Adulthood Team			0203 373 4563