



North Tyneside Council

Date: October 2021

North Tyneside Children's Disability Team Criteria

Introduction

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 in most 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>

Referrals and Assessments

The Children's Disability Team (CDT) is a small specialist team of social workers who provide advice and 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 referral to the Front Door and the specialist workers in the disability team will undertake the assessment.

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. Some information links have been provided below.

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.

Appropriate referrals include children aged 0 - 17:

- With severe learning disabilities
- With severe communication disability
- With Autism Spectrum Disorder, which has a significant impact on their communication needs, social and behavioural development
- With global development delay

- With severe sensory impairment
- With complex physical disability

The team works with those children and young people who have a permanent and substantial disability, typically needing input from a number of agencies.

In addition to child disability issues, social, environmental, and parenting capacity will be considered in any assessment. This could include children subject to child protection plans, complex family issues, Children In Care, for example.

Children/young people with lower levels of need may receive a brief period of help or referral to other services but may not receive an ongoing social work service.

The team can also support around a plan for transition to adult services.

For more information contact Front Door on 0345 2000109 or click on the link

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

Additional Useful Information

The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHs) can offer information and advice around support connected to mental health or for example Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD):

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

The Sensory Service at Beacon Hill provides advice and support to children who have visual or hearing loss on a long-term basis. More information here:

<https://beaconhill.org.uk/north-tyneside-sensory-service/>