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## **National Framework for Children's Continuing Care** **Information for Parents and Young People**

This information is for Parents and Young People to explain about National Framework for Children's Continuing Care, and what it will mean for you and/or your Child.

### **What is Children's Continuing Care?**

Children's continuing care is for a child or a young person, up to 18 years old, who have health needs related to an illness, disability or an accident which cannot be met by the existing services from health.

It is not based on diagnosis it is based on the severity, unpredictability and frequency of needs. Children who are likely to meet Continuing Care will have health needs which are very severe, very frequent and are unpredictable.

### **What is a Continuing Care Assessment?**

Usually a professional or a team of professionals working with your child will identify that your child may have health care needs that cannot be met within the existing services. With your consent they will put in a referral for a continuing care assessment.

In the National Framework for Children's Continuing Care the next step is to have a clear understanding of all of your child's and your family's needs; this is done through gathering assessments and information about your child.

Families/young people often say how difficult it is to keep having to repeat information or assessments. Where possible, assessments that have already been completed will be used, as long as the information is up to date.

This information is sent to the Child Health Team, which is part of the North East Commissioning Support Unit. (North East Commissioning Support Unit are responsible on behalf of the Clinical Commissioning Groups for buying health care services for the local people, this includes hospitals).

The assessments are used to determine your child's level of healthcare need against a Decision Support Tool (DST). The DST is a national document. The DST lists health care needs, such as nutrition, mobility, breathing, behaviour, and against each needs there is a list of descriptions, the child health team nurse will listen to you and the professionals working with your child to decide together which description best describes your child's needs. This tool is used to assess whether your child has needs which are eligible for Continuing Care funding as outlined in the National Framework for Children's Continuing Care.



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### **What happens if my Child is Eligible for Continuing Care?**

There needs to be a support plan (it may have other names) which identifies the health outcomes for your child and a plan to meet the outcomes.

The plan must indicate your child's and family's views and preferences.

This plan maybe written by a professional already working with you, (e.g. your key worker, care co-ordinator or social worker), or it may be co-ordinated by the nurse assessor.

### **What Happens Next?**

Based on the support plan, different options will be outlined which maybe able to meet your child's need. For each option the strengths and weaknesses are considered, this is called an option appraisal. Your preference will be indicated on the options appraisals.

If your child does not meet the continuing care criteria, the professionals working with you will discuss what other options are available.

### **Funding Panel**

A summary of your child's needs, the support plan and options appraisal will be discussed at a local funding panel.

There is representation from health, education and social care commissioners at these panels. (Commissioners are responsible for buying the service)

### **What Next?**

You will be informed of the panel's decision in writing within 5 working days.

If there is an agreement to fund a package of care, there will be regular reviews. The frequency of review will be discussed with you, it is usual to have the first review within the first 3 months and then, as a minimum annually after that.

### **What the National Framework for Children's Continuing Care does not do?**

It does not determine what services your child will receive. That is for each local area to decide based on the information within the assessments and the existing services in your child's area.