

Family Services

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Contents

1. General Criteria.....	3
2. Restrictions.....	3
3. Short Break Provision.....	4
4. Referrals to 0-25 Disability Service.....	4
5. Assessments.....	4
6. Planning.....	4
7. Child Protection.....	5
8. Disability Register.....	5

1. General Criteria

The 0-25 Disability Service offers a service to children or young people from 0 – 25 years of age and combines the previous 0-18 Disabled Children's Team and the Transitions Team. The eligibility criteria are broader for over 18's and also includes those with Care Act eligible needs who have a learning or physical disability.

The team offers a service to children and young people who have a diagnosed severe/profound disability or diagnosed chronic health condition resulting in severe and profound disability.

In order to be eligible for an assessment from the 0-25 Disability Service there must be reasonable cause to believe that the disability is:

a) Substantial

There is significant impairment or loss of function affecting the child's ability to carry out essential daily living activities

b) Permanent

The impairment is deemed to be life long and there may be further deterioration or the condition is terminal.

The child will have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and will be eligible for a Specialist Educational Provision.

An assessment of need will not automatically result in the provision of a social work service if the needs identified can be met through alternative service provision.

2. Restrictions

The 0-25 Disability Service does not offer a service to:

- Children with emotional and behavioural difficulties
- Children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
- Children with sleep disorders
- Children with Specific Learning Difficulties e.g. Dyslexia
- Children and young people with mental health problems
- Children with allergies or skin conditions
- Children and young people with Asperger's Syndrome

unless these are also accompanied by a substantial and permanent disability.

Generally children and young people with Autism will not be eligible for the 0-25 Disability Service unless they have an additional condition which does meet the criteria but they may be able to access support through other means such as universal services or Short Break provision.

3. Short Break Provision

Short Break Provision has a wider eligibility criteria and information is available on the Local Offer Website.

Applications are made directly to the Short Break Service.

4. Referrals to 0-25 Disability Service

For those aged under 18 all referrals regarding disabled children and young people, should be directed through the MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub)

Referrals from professionals should be sent to the MASH via the on-line referral form

Referrals from parents can be made to the MASH by telephone

The MASH will consider the information available at the point of referral and make a decision as to which is the appropriate team to follow up the concerns raised. This could be the 0-25 Disability Service, the Early Help Assessment Team or the Duty and Assessment Team.

Referrals for those aged 18-25 are made via Social Care Direct.

Referrals can be for support or concerns regarding safeguarding issues.

5. Assessments

The 0-25 Disability Service will undertake the appropriate assessment depending on the nature of the referral. This could be :

- CWD (Child with Disability) Assessment
- Child and Family Assessment
- Carers Assessment
- Care Act Assessment

As part of the assessment we will consider the needs of all members of the household

All assessments will be completed within a maximum of 45 days and a copy of the assessment provided to the family.

6. Planning

If, after assessment, it is decided that the child or young person requires support from the 0-25 Service then a plan will be put in place – the nature of the plan will depend on the level of support or provision needed.

A copy of the plan will be given to the family.

The plan will detail any services to be offered and any expectations regarding how the child's identified needs will be met.

All plans will be reviewed at least once every 12 months and more when necessary due to changes in the child or young person's circumstances.

The parents or carer may request a review of the Plan if additional support is requested.

7. Child Protection

Research indicates that disabled children and young people are at an increased risk of abuse and neglect.

If information is received or concerns are identified regarding a child known to the 0-25 Disability Service, or a child who meets the criteria for an assessment, which indicate that a child or young person is at risk of significant harm, this will be investigated by the 0-25 Disability Service according to the Child Protection Procedures or the Adult Safeguarding Procedures.

8. Disability Register

The Disability Register is maintained by the Children's Services but is independent of the work/role of the 0-25 Disability Service. Registration does not provide any entitlement to services from the 0-25 Disability Service or for Assisted Travel permits, Blue Badges, Freedom Passes. These requests need to be made to the appropriate departments.

Children and young people receive a registration card.

Information held on the Register is used for service planning.