

# Children and Young People's Support and Safeguarding Services

**You Can, I Can, We Can**

# Children with Disabilities Social Work Team - Eligibility Criteria



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## 1. Introduction

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This document has been produced with the aim of outlining how support can be accessed through our Children with Disabilities Social Work Team, within Children and Young People's Support and Safeguarding Services (CYPSSS). It provides guidance to children, young people, (aged 0-18) parents, carers and professionals and details the criteria used by the Children with Disabilities Social Work Team to determine whether to carry out an assessment, or to provide services.

## 2. Aim and scope

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The Children with Disabilities Social Work Team within East Riding of Yorkshire Council is a specialist team responsible for providing support to the most severely disabled children and young people (0-18).

East Riding of Yorkshire Council is committed to ensuring that children, young people, and families are able to access the right support at the right time to meet their expressed and assessed needs. We also understand that children and families have individual and bespoke needs, and not all families will require the level of support provided by our Children with Disabilities Social Work Team. Therefore, it is essential that the needs of children and families are fully considered during a request for service.

## 3. Principles underpinning this document

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At CYPSSS our vision is to; “deliver good outcomes for children, young people, and their families through the provision of professionally compassionate, curious, and evidence-based practice that is outcome focused.”

As part of our drive to continually improve services for children with disabilities and their families, we have sought to strengthen and clarify our eligibility criteria. This policy and the arrangements set out within, have been developed in line with agreed recommendations following review and collaboration with Local Authority partners, findings from quality of practice activity and family feedback.

## 4. Statutory framework

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East Riding of Yorkshire Council considers the rights of disabled children and young people in accordance with relevant legislation. This document should be read in conjunction with the legislation set out below:

- The Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970.



- The Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations, 2011.
- The Equality Act 2010.
- The Equality Act 2010 (Disability regulations) 2010.
- The Children Act 1989.
- The Children Act 2004.
- The Children & Families Act 2014.
- The Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014 as amended 2015.
- SEN and Disability Code of Practice.
- United Nations (UN) Convention on Disability Rights.
- Human Rights Act 1998.

## 5. Definitions

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This policy adopts the Equality Act 2010 definition of disability which defines a person as having a disability if they have a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day to day activities.

**Each disabled child and family will have their own individual and bespoke needs, which will need to be fully considered, when determining whether the child requires a social work service.**

- 'Normal day to day activities' should be seen in comparison to other children / young people of the same age.
- 'Substantial' means more than minor or trivial. It may mean that a disabled child requires significant levels of support from another person to carry out basic day to day functions such as washing, dressing, feeding, participating in activities inside and outside of the home, and night- time care. As an adult it is expected that they will continue to require this level of support.
- 'Long term' means that the effect of the impairment has lasted or is likely to last for at least 12 months.
- 'Impairment' might be cognitive, sensory, physical, or mental.

Children and young people with long term health conditions and complex health care needs where these have a substantial effect on their ability to carry out normal day to day activities are included in the definition.



Children and young people with severe disfigurements, including skin diseases are automatically included within the definition of disability.

Children and young people for whom the definition relates will have a wide range of varying needs and East Riding of Yorkshire Council will consider the impact on a disabled child, on their siblings and family when considering any request for service. There are a range of other factors that may be considered such as the degree of impairment, the age of the child and the individual family circumstances.

## 6. Children with Disabilities Social Work Team - Eligibility Criteria

The Children with Disabilities Social Work Team, work with children and young people aged 0 to 18 who reside in the East Riding of Yorkshire and have one or more of the following:

- A severe or profound learning disability;
- A severe or profound physical disability;
- Complex health needs related to a lifelong or life limiting disability;
- Autism;
- A combination of disabilities, which individually are not severe, but cumulatively have a similar impact to a severe disability.

The child's or young person's disability needs should also include one or more of the following to confirm that provision of service criteria is met:

- The use of specialist equipment for mobility;
- Requires support with basic self-care when no longer age appropriate;
- Have a need for constant supervision throughout the day and/or periods during the night when no longer age appropriate and where it is having a significant impact on the disabled child or family;
- Has difficulties relating to behaviours that challenge, which are a direct result of the disability and that pose a significant risk of harm to the child or young person or others;
- Has severe developmental delay;
- Has severe communication needs;
- Has sensory communication disabilities (hearing, visual or multi-sensory impairments);
- Has other neurological conditions such as FASD (Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder).



## 7. Needs not covered by the criteria

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- Children with mental health disorders unless the child or young person also has a learning, physical or communication disability;
- Children and young people with a disability or disabilities that are not considered severe;
- Children and young people with behavioural problems due to social/environmental factors (i.e., not associated with a disability);
- Children with a diagnosis of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), unless the child also has a learning, physical or communication disability;
- Children with learning difficulties e.g., dyspraxia, dyslexia.

## 8. How to make a request for service to the Children with Disabilities Social Work Team

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Requests from a young person, parents, and carers for assessments from the Children with Disabilities Social Work Team should be made to the Safeguarding and Partnership Hub, in the first instance. The service can be contacted by telephone by calling; 01482 395500 and choosing option two.

Parents and carers who are uncertain around the level of need can also contact the Safeguarding and Partnership Hub for a consultation with a Social Worker.

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