

DCFS

CHILDREN'S DIVISION

SHORT BREAK SERVICES FOR CHILDREN WITH A DISABILITY

PROPOSED ENTITLEMENT / ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Services for children with a disability include overnight short breaks through Fullerton Grove Bungalow and the Home from Home scheme, CORDS Outreach Services and any other services as assessed.

Short break services (previously known as "Respite") are governed by the following legislation:

Children Act 1989

Disability Discrimination Act 1995:

Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970

The "Full Service Offer" for disabled children laid out by Aiming High for Disabled Children dictates that services should:

"Use fair, understandable and transparent eligibility criteria that enable short breaks to be used as a preventative service and which do not restrict provision to those threatened by family breakdown or other points of crisis (Assessment)"

Current recommendations from the Council for Disabled Children, Together for Disabled Children, and recent case law place an increased emphasis on the importance of assessment, transparency, flexibility and linking in with the Framework for Assessment.

The following criteria from Knowsley Children with Disabilities Needs Assessment Matrix (Appendix 1) ([trix please link](#)) will assist in determining entitlement to services for children with disabilities.

- i) Be Healthy**
 - Nature of disability
 - Dependency
 - Demand on Carer
- ii) Stay Safe:**
 - Behaviour
 - Family Dynamics
 - Support Networks
 - Environment
- iii). Enjoy and Achieve**
 - School

Hobbies

iv). Make a Positive Contribution

Risky Behaviour
Friendships
Communication

v). Economic Wellbeing

Finance
Housing
Transport

A [Core Assessment] will then be carried out which will identify levels of need and indicate appropriate services to meet needs identified. The Department will aim to provide a range and level of services appropriate to the needs of these children and families so as to promote their active participation in the life of the community.

Following assessment, a decision will be made by the Disability Resource Panel regarding the provision of appropriate services.

Whilst these criteria act as a guide, services may be provided to meet needs according to individual circumstances as assessed in the child's Core Assessment.

Services may also be provided by Knowsley MBC family support services in line with an assessment carried out under the Common Assessment Framework (C.A.F.) or in line with Knowsley MBC Safeguarding Procedures.

Level 1 – Indicates Universal Need / Low Level of Need

It is not anticipated that a service would be offered by the Social Services Department at this level as these needs are ordinarily met by other services e.g. Health, Education, Leisure etc.

Level 2 – Need for Support / Moderate Level of Need

Categories of need within this level

Children / young people whose assessed need is that of social / leisure opportunities.

8-17yrs* (service provided up to 18th Birthday)

Bridging Worker / Universal Services:	to support and promote inclusion in leisure and social activities.
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Service to be offered, dependent upon other opportunities in the child's life, for 12 weeks and reviewed.

Level 3 – Child Concern / Moderate Level of Need

- i) Children / young people whose assessed need is that of social / leisure opportunities and where such sessions are required to provide carers with short break (and where no other short break is in place).

8-17yrs
Outreach Service
Bridging Worker / Universal Services

Service to be offered,
dependent upon other
opportunities in the child's life,
for 12 weeks and reviewed.

- ii) Children / young people whose assessed need is that of a break from carers and it is also assessed that carers require a break from the child due to the demands of care.

0-6yrs Home from Home
6-17yrs Fullerton Grove/Home from Home p.a.

- iii) Children / young people whose family situation is assessed as requiring significant support due to the complex needs of the child and/or other pressures upon the carer.

0-6yrs Nights Home from Home
6-17yrs Nights Fullerton Grove/Home from Home p.a.

Service to be reviewed at Statutory Review meetings.

- iv) Children / young people whose care / family situation causes concern for the young person's well being.

0-8yrs Home from Home
6-17yrs Fullerton Grove/Home from Home

Plus

8-17yrs
Outreach Service
Bridging Worker / Universal Services:

Service to be offered, dependent upon other opportunities in the child's life, and to be reviewed through the relevant review process

Level 4 – Need for Prevention / High Level of Need

- i). Carers require additional support to meet the child's complex care needs. These may be medical, or behavioural: for example associated with conditions such as autism.

Children / young people for whom there is risk of harm (social / emotional as well as physical / sexual / neglect).

0-6yrs	Home from Home
6-17yrs	Fullerton Grove/Home from Home

Plus

8-17yrs
Outreach Service
Bridging Worker / Universal Services

Service to be reviewed at Prevention Planning / Statutory Review meetings.

- ii). Children / young people for whom there has been actual harm (social / emotional as well as physical / sexual / neglect). Multi-agency Section 47 investigation carried out, legal Gate Keeping meeting held (see Safeguarding Procedures (trix please link to Section 47 Procedures in LSCB). Consideration should be given to full-time care.

Short breaks would be agreed as appropriate for this level of need to support identified placement.

0-8yrs	Home from Home
6-17yrs	Fullerton Grove/Home from Home

Plus

8-17yrs
Outreach Service
Bridging Worker / Universal Services

Services to be reviewed at Child Protection Review / Statutory Review meetings.

It is recognised that the needs of children and families will alter over time and that movement between the various levels of service may be offered after

considering additional circumstances e.g. a child with significantly challenging behaviours. Likewise, while age ranges are stated, consideration will be given to the individual needs of the child, as agreed by the Disability Resource Panel. Levels of service indicated in each level of need may be offered to families but are not obligatory.

Emergency Provision

Increased services may be offered for a fixed period in emergency situations when available.

Full Time Provision

Alternative care may be offered on a full time basis, following assessment and in consultation with parents and children.

Other Services

Referrals, or direct contact, for services may be made to other agencies as recommended through assessment.

APPENDIX 1:

CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES: NEEDS ASSESSMENT MATRIX

Trix please use document in new files