

INTRODUCTION

What is Children and Young People's Continuing Care?

A continuing care package will be required when a child or young person has needs that cannot be met by existing universal or specialist health services alone.

The needs of the child or young person are assessed over 10 domains:

- breathing
- eating and drinking
- mobility
- continence and elimination
- skin and tissue viability
- communication
- drug therapies and medicines
- psychological and emotional needs
- seizures
- challenging behaviour

Based on the combination and severity of need, the assessment will identify if the child is eligible for children's continuing care or if their needs should be able to be met via referral to existing services.

Further information on Children and young people's continuing care national framework is available on the following [link](#).

Why is it important?

Joint commissioning is important to ensure that children and young people receive the correct level of care and support from all agencies, so that they can achieve their full potential. This is particularly important where specialist health provision is required.

Some of our packages of support for children and young people with disabilities and for children in care are very costly. Local authority budgets are under extreme pressure, failure to ensure we access all available funding streams would be negligent and will impact on the resources and provision available to children and young people in Nottinghamshire.

For children with an Education, Health and Care plan there should already be an agreed process for joint assessment and commissioning of services to meet identified needs, a referral to continuing care should only be considered where an identified need cannot be met via referral to existing services.

REFERRAL PROCESS

Which Children’s Continuing Health Care Panel?

There are 2 Children’s Continuing Care panels across the county. The panel that applies to a young person is determined by the location of their GP.

In the case of looked after children use the GP at the point they came into care, regardless of whether they have subsequently been registered in another area.

The following [link](#) provides information on GP surgeries within Nottinghamshire’s CCG boundaries

CHC Panel	CCG Members:
Bassetlaw	Bassetlaw
Nottinghamshire	All other districts

Pre-Assessment Checklist

Before a full children’s continuing health care assessment is progressed, case/social workers are required to complete a pre-assessment check list.

To help with this process a single point of contact (SPOC) has been established and support will be offered to complete the checklist. Please contact anne.lobley@nottscg.gov.uk to request a teams call, it will usually only take half an hour to go through the checklist and establish if the child is likely to be eligible. Once eligibility has been established SPOC will pass on to the service organiser within commissioning and contracts team to collate evidence and fully complete the checklist.

The completed checklist will then be sent to child’s case worker/social worker to review and sign; please note that parental consent is also required before documents are sent to CCG. It is important that we process referrals as quickly as possible to ensure that cases can be presented to panel in timely way; any delay is likely to impact on the panel’s decision, it is extremely difficult to secure funding retrospectively.

In order that NCC Childrens Commissioning and Contracts team are aware of all the referrals that are being made and so that we can keep a record of the decisions to proceed to a full assessment all referrals must be sent through this central process.

Providing Evidence

As mentioned above service organiser will collate evidence to support the referral to Children's Continuing Care, below are some examples but this is not an exhaustive list and any recent information that provides evidence of the young person's presenting needs should be included:

- PEP
- LAC Review
- Placement Referrals
- Risk Assessments
- Psychological Reports
- Placement Reports
- Care Plans
- Placement weekly updates
- Incident reports

Decision Support Tool

If the pre-referral checklist indicates that the young person is potentially eligible for CCC funding the relevant panel nurse assessor will contact the child's worker to arrange a full assessment which involves (the nurse assessor) completing the Decision Support Tool (DST).

It is helpful if this can be undertaken with the support of all those that know the young person well including primary carers and other professionals, if there is a multi-agency meeting scheduled it would be an ideal opportunity to invite the nurse assessor to facilitate completing the DST.

Presentation to Panel & Funding Agreements

Once the DST has been completed the nurse assessor will present the case at the next available panel with their recommendation on eligibility. Referring case worker/social worker will be invited to attend panel.

The panel is usually made up of commissioners from health, education and social care, following a case discussion where eligibility will be confirmed or declined the panel will agree what additional services and/or funding are required.

NCC commissioning colleagues will be informed of the agreement and will liaise with NCC finance to initiate invoicing where appropriate. There is no expectation that case worker /social workers need to be involved in any aspect of the finance issues.

DST Review

The DST will be reviewed on an annual basis as a minimum (some cases will be reviewed at 3mths/6mths) and as a result any allocated funding may increase, decrease or may cease altogether. The nurse assessor will contact the child's worker to arrange a meeting when a DST review is due. The case will be presented back to panel with the information collated at review for a decision regarding ongoing funding.

Requesting a Pre-assessment Check List and Further Information

If you wish to make a referral to Children's Continuing Care, have any queries about an existing referral or would like to discuss an individual case prior to making a referral, please contact anne.lobley@nottscc.gov.uk

Appendix 1: Referral Process Flowchart for case worker/ social worker

Social worker / case worker contacts anne.lobley@nottscc.gov.uk to request an initial teams meeting to discuss whether the child /young person is likely to be eligible for Children's Continuing Care.

Social worker / case worker attends the initial teams meeting to discuss details of the child/young person to inform the pre-referral checklist and determine whether a Childrens Continuing Care referral should be progressed

If it is determined that the child/ young person is likely to be eligible for Children's Continuing Care, commissioning team service organiser will complete the form and collate supporting evidence. Once complete the form will be sent to the social worker / case worker to QA and sign. If PR is not held by the Local Authority, then the social worker / case worker will need to seek consent from the individual with PR and get this person to sign the consent form. The referral form can then be sent back to anne.lobley@nottscc.gov.uk or abbie.kingswood@nottscc.gov.uk

The referral form will then be sent to the CCG by the service organiser. If the CCG decide that the child/ young person is potentially eligible, then the nurse assessor will contact the social worker / case worker to arrange a full assessment which involves (the nurse assessor) completing the Decision Support Tool (DST). N.B. If CCG declined to progress to a DST LA colleagues can decide if there are grounds to challenge the decision.

Once the DST is complete, the nurse assessor will present the case at the next Childrens Continuing Care Panel. The social worker / case worker will be invited to the panel. If eligibility is confirmed the panel will agree what additional services and/or funding are required.

The DST will be reviewed on an annual basis as a minimum (some cases will be reviewed at 3mths/6mths) and as a result any allocated funding may increase, decrease or may cease altogether. The nurse assessor will contact the social worker / case worker to arrange a meeting when a DST review is due.