

LAMBETH CYPS ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR SERVICES TO CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

INTRODUCTION

The Children with Disabilities Team will offer an assessment to children and their parents / carers in Lambeth when the child has a severe/profound disability or complex health needs.

1. Advice
2. Registration on "I Count" Children with Disabilities Register
3. Services accessed by the assessment of need:
 - i. Referral to a specialist agency or resource
 - ii. Family support / child protection
 - iii. Care package in the community
 - iv. Service as a 'Looked after' child or young person

In providing these services the team:

- Will work in partnership with children and their families, paying close attention to their views and wishes;
- Will make clear what service is being provided, and why, confirming this in writing.
- Work in partnership with any other agencies involved with the child / parent / carer

1 ADVICE

The Children with Disabilities Team will at any point in its contact with a child / family give advice on universal or specialist services.

2 ASSESSMENT FOR INCLUSION ON THE COUNCIL'S DISABILITY REGISTER

The Children Act 1989 states that all Local Authorities must keep a Register of Children with Disabilities. Assessment for inclusion on the Register is open to all children and their families. The team will undertake an assessment against eligibility criteria that have been developed in partnership with the local Primary Care Trust (See below). This is identical with that set out in the Children Act 1989, which states:

A disabled child is defined as one who "is blind, deaf or dumb or suffers from mental disorder of any kind or is substantially and permanently handicapped by illness, injury or congenital deformity" (Section 17 (11))

Where any area of functioning is assessed at level 3 'Severe' or level 4 'Profound', this meets the Council's criteria of Disability, and the child is thus registerable with the Council as Disabled. As will be seen below, eligibility for inclusion on the "I Count" Register is an important, though not necessarily sufficient, condition, for other services, which the Team provides. These services are accessed through an additional 'Assessment of Need'.

3 SERVICES ACCESSED BY THE ASSESSMENT OF NEED

The Assessment is based on the Department of Health's 'Framework for Assessment', which provides a comprehensive analysis of a child's needs, together with their family's areas of strength and vulnerability to provide for those needs. The assessment is made up of the detailed observations of the Children with Disabilities Team Worker usually through observing the child and family at home, together with reflection on those needs with their manager. Where substantial Council resources may be involved, any package proposed must go to the joint Funding Panel. In recognition that needs change over time, all services are subject to review. The services accessible through this process are as follows:

i Referral to a specialist agency or resource

These services include:

- Charlie Chaplin Adventure Plays -Scheme
- Contact A Family
- Family Link
- Crossroads

The eligibility criteria for this service are:

Eligibility for inclusion on the "I Count" Children with Disabilities Register Assessed as appropriate through the Assessment of Need to address potential significant developmental impairment

The decision to refer to one of the above will be after an assessment of need by the Children with Disabilities Team workers, in consultation with the disabled child / young person and their parent / carer.

ii Family Support / child protection

This is provided by the Social Workers, Family Support Workers and other specialists that may be attached to the Children with Disabilities Team. It works to enable both carers and children / young people to:

- Explore the nature of the disability
- Develop a child protection plan
- Explore its impact upon on their own lives and the lives of people close to them
- Work towards a relationship with the disability, which works for them
- Where challenging behaviour is an issue, to develop behaviour support plans

The service can be provided at any point following assessment, together with any other of the services offered by the Team, or on its own.

The eligibility criteria for this service are:

Eligibility for inclusion on the “I Count” Children with Disabilities Register. Assessed as appropriate through the Assessment of Need to address potential significant developmental impairment

iii Package of support in the community

This service is delivered to support carers in caring for the child or young person within their families. It can either take the form of help in caring for the child or young person within the home itself (‘domiciliary care’), or of caring for her/him for a short period away from home (‘Respite / Short Break’) to give all parties a rest. The services may be provided jointly with the Health or Education services. See Appendix for details

Services included as part of packages of support are:

- Domiciliary care
- Personal Care
- Escorting
- Residential Respite Care
- Foster Respite Care (incl. Shared Care Scheme)

The eligibility criteria for this service are:

- Eligibility for inclusion on the “I Count” Children with Disabilities Register
- Assessed as appropriate through the Assessment of Need to address potential significant developmental impairment
- The child has suffered family breakdown, and / or is likely to do so if the service is not provided

A decision to provide one of these intensive resources is taken following discussion at the Joint Funding Panel and must be authorized by the Service Manager. All packages provided are regularly reviewed, and are liable to re-assessment and change at any point.

iv Service as a looked after child / young person

Under the Children Act 1989, the Local Authority has a duty to provide Care away from home if the person who has been caring for him is prevented from providing him with suitable accommodation or care. This could be in the form of a Social Care placement (Foster Care, Children's Home) or a Boarding School. National research evidences that once this sort of service is provided, disabled children seldom return home. As this is such a serious consequence for both child and family, the Service sees looking after a child or young person away from home very much as a last resort.

Eligibility for this service

- Eligibility for inclusion on the "I Count" Children with Disabilities Register
- Assessed as appropriate through the Assessment of Need to address potential significant developmental impairment
- The child has suffered family breakdown, and / or is likely to do so if the service is not provided; and
- Attempts at support the child / young person and their parent / carer in the community have proved unsuccessful.

. The decision to look after a child or young person is taken, in all but an emergency, by the Service Manager. With disabled children / young people joint funding may well be an issue, and the case would need to be taken to the SEN joint funding panel to seek joint funding wherever possible.

Eligibility Criteria for Registration on the Lambeth “I Count” CWD Register

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Some guidance is required with regard to registration of disabilities under the categories mild and moderate. A child would not usually be registered unless there was a range of problems in a number of categories under mild and moderate. A child would be eligible for registration if they meet any single criterion with the severe or profound dimensions. The dimensions of Personal Care should not be used to assess babies and infants. While it is recognised that children with disabilities already have additional personal care needs when they are very young, these issues should be taken up in other dimensions of the criteria.

<i>Dimension</i>	<i>Mild</i>	<i>Moderate</i>	<i>Severe</i>	<i>Profound</i>
Overall	Child under 5 functioning slightly behind the level expected for age. Child over 5, some limitation present but able to function independently.	Child under 5 functioning around 2/3 the level expected for age. Child over 5 where aids or assistance may be required to perform.	Child under 5 functioning around ½ the level expected for age. Child over 5 who is unable to perform tasks without aids or assistance most of the time.	Child under 5 requiring significantly greater care and attention because of the profound nature of health or learning condition. Significant failure to reach developmental milestones. Child over 5 completely dependent upon carer to perform tasks.
Mobility	Able to walk and function independently, but with some limitation of function. Poor co-ordination.	Walks, but only with aids or assistance. May have wheelchair for intermittent use.	Unable to walk. May be able to stand or transfer with support. Able to manoeuvre self at least some of the time.	Unable to walk. Wheelchair user. Totally dependent upon carer for mobility.
Motor Skills	Some Difficulties with play, writing or drawing e.g. tremor, unsteadiness, awkward release, lack of fine control.	Able to play, write, type or draw, but only with considerable difficulty or needing assistance.	Mostly unable to use hands effectively, but able to use switch systems e.g. toys, computer, communication aid.	Unable to operate even simple aids or switch systems.
Communication	Marked delay in language development. Reliant upon others to manage in social situations	Delayed or disordered communication including language disorders causing significant difficulty in communicating outside the home. Speech supplemented by alternative method of communication. Inability to use communication in a socially interactive manner.	None or very little communication used, but can communicate at least basic needs using any method.	Unable to communicate needs by any method. Unable to use communication aid.
Consciousness	Occasional daytime seizure, up to one per month.	Some fits most weeks, day or night.	Many fits on most days or nights. Development or education adversely affected.	Comatose. Intractable seizures in frequent succession.
Health	Known health condition, which is under control and only occasionally interfering with everyday activities in a minor way.	Intermittent but regular limitations of normal activities, including self-care and personal hygiene. May interfere with development or education.	Frequent or daily interruption of normal activities, including self care and personal hygiene. Significant interference with normal development or education.	Unable to take part in any social or educational activities. Unable to manage any self-care or personal hygiene functions.
Vision	Severe or profound problem with one eye. Less than half visual field	Able to read print with simple aids or assistance. Defect of at least half visual field. May be eligible for	Mobility restricted without special provision. Unable to read large print without intensive	Mobility restricted without special provision. Requires education by non

Dimension	Mild	Moderate	Severe	Profound
	loss. Able to function independently.	registration as partially sighted.	educational assistance or sophisticated aids. Severe visual field defect with impaired visual acuity. Eligible for registration as blind or partially sighted.	sighted method. Eligible for registration as blind.
Hearing	Severe or profound hearing loss in one ear. Moderate hearing loss, (20-40 dB).	Significant hearing loss, but able to function with a hearing aid, (41-70 dB).	Severe hearing loss (71-95 dB).	Total or near total loss of hearing (>95 dB).
Continence	Manages independently, without use of aids, but with slight difficulty. Over 6 and regularly wets the bed.	11+ with regular night time wetting. 8+ with occasional day time wetting. 6+ and soils occasionally. Marked interference with social and emotional well-being	Uses device to manage bladder and bowels. 8+ and wet every daytime. 6+ and soils regularly.	No control of either bowel or bladder. Child over 6 completely dependent upon carer to be clean and dry
Personal Care	Can wash, dress and feed self, but with slight difficulties.	Some supervision or assistance required to wash, dress and feed self.	Assistance required to wash, dress and feed self.	Over 5 and total care required. No assistance from the Child.
Safety and Supervision	Requires occasional supervision beyond that expected for that age. Poor sense of danger or risk of excitability.	Needing supervision to perform daily activities. Limited perception of danger to self or others. Requires supervision significantly greater than that expected for developmental age.	Needs constant supervision during the day. Would place themselves or others at risk without supervision.	Needs constant supervision both day and night. No ability to perceive danger.
Learning Difficulty	Assessment shows abilities will achieve within 70-80% of the expected attainment for age	Assessment shows abilities will achieve less than 70% of the expected attainment for age	Assessment shows abilities will achieve less than 50% of the expected attainment for age	Assessment shows abilities will achieve less than 35% of the expected attainment for age
Behaviour and Social Integration	Some behaviour difficulties – mild, transient or frequent. Can be managed without special provision. Able to sustain limited peer relationships and social integration with support	Behaviour problems severe or frequent enough to require some specialist advice or provision. Significant support required to achieve social integration. Only able to sustain peer relationships with support.	Long term behaviour difficulties making it difficult for the child to function within their family or peer group most of the time, unless special provision is made. Total dependence upon carer for social integration. Very limited awareness of impact of behaviour upon others	Long term behaviour difficulties, affecting all aspects of the child's functioning. Frequent behaviour that may be of risk to the child or carers. Complete isolation from peers and carers. No awareness of impact of behaviour upon others

