

Children with Disabilities Barnet

Eligibility Criteria

This guidance is to help members of staff, parents/carers and the professional network identify children who through a disability meet the threshold criteria for Children with Disabilities Team, social services and to establish their eligibility for services including appropriate assessments.

A request for an assessment can be made to children Social Care for any child with a disability or a young person from birth up to the age of 18 years who is a resident with the London Borough of Barnet boundaries

Following acceptance of a referral, there will be an assessment of need by a social worker from the team. Services will be provided in accordance with the assessed need. In circumstances where a young person is 17 years or over it is expected that consultation would take place with managers in our transition team.

The London Borough of Barnet Social Services makes a distinction between the general children in need services and the needs of children with severe and profound disabilities and provides a specialist service for this group.

To be offered a service by the Children with disabilities team, a child or a young person must have a disability that has been formally diagnosed, and be permanent or long term and meets at one of the following

- a severe or profound learning disability
- a severe or profound physical disability
- Significant or profound sensory disability
- Complex medical needs or long-term condition expected to disable the child for more than one year
- Life threatening illness
- Severe communication disabilities or behavioural difficulties related to the child's disability eg autism
- severe developmental delay
- a combination of disabilities which individually are not severe but together cause as much stress as a very severe disability
- a diagnosis of deafness
- a diagnosis of blindness

These criteria are based on the definition of disability set out in the Children Act 1989

The criteria does not include children with

- mental health disorders unless in conjunction with a learning, physical or communication disability
- a disability or disabilities that are not severe
- behavioural problems due to social /environmental factors (ie not associated to a disability)

- a diagnosis of Attention Deficit Hyper-active Disorder (ADHD) or Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) unless it in conjunction with a learning disability, physical or communication disability

Registration on the disability register is not sufficient evidence that a child meets the criteria for a service from the Children with disabilities team as the register includes children with a wide range of special/ additional needs. Registration does not provide any entitlement to services from the children with disabilities team or for assisted travel permits, blue badges, freedom passes. These requests need to be made to the appropriate departments.

In circumstances where there is uncertainty, the application of concepts substantial and permanent could help make good judgements

Substantial means considerable or significant factors that a life changing or limiting and might include issues to do with risk and dependency

Permanent means existing indefinitely and not expected to improve. However there must be sufficient flexibility to take account of intermittent or episodic conditions.

In circumstances where it is not clear whether or not a child/young person meets the above eligibility criteria there will be a discussion between the children with disabilities team and managers of the other teams within Family Services

Children who don't meet the eligibility criteria for a service from the children with disabilities team may be entitled to services as children in need and may be referred to other teams within Children Services.