



# Eligibility Criteria for the Children with Disabilities Social Care Team

May 2021

**CROYDON** | Delivering  
www.croydon.gov.uk | for Croydon

  
**CHAMPIONS**  
for Children



## Introduction

Croydon Children, Families and Education Service are committed to deliver the very highest quality services to children, young people with disabilities and their families. We want to ensure that all children are safe, happy, enjoy their learning and thrive to be as independent as they possibly can be.

In all our work with children we want to provide the right service at the right time in the right place and ensure that wherever possible identified needs are delivered locally and met within mainstream and universal services.

We take our statutory responsibility to provide and / or co-ordinate the provision of services to meet the assessed needs of children and young people with disabilities very seriously and we will endeavour to put children's needs at the heart of all our activity and decision making.

The provision of services to children and young people under the age of 18 with disabilities is delivered by the Children with Disabilities team which is managed by Croydon Council's Children, Families and Education Department.

This document details which children and young people will benefit from the support and services from Children with Disabilities.

We will endeavour to help all families identify the right level of support, at the right time by the right service.

<sup>1</sup>Legal duties with respect to children and young people with disabilities are imposed by Children Act 1989; Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970; Children Act 2004; Children and Families Act 2014; Equality Act 2010; Care Act 2014; as well as secondary legislation and statutory guidance.

# Children and Young People with Disabilities Social Care Eligibility Criteria

Thank you to everyone who took the time to give us feedback on the draft Eligibility Criteria, a document developed to set out the eligibility criteria for the provision of services by the Children with Disabilities (CWD) Social Care team in Croydon. This team provides specialist disability-related services to children and young people aged 0-18.

An important part of developing this criteria was to gather feedback from people who are connected to the CWD service so we can ensure that this is a useful document for you, and the services and organisations supporting children and young people with additional needs in Croydon. By doing this we can produce a criteria that clearly sets out what, if any, provision a child/young person is entitled to and, where to go if a child/young person's needs sit outside this criteria. In order for a child or a young person to receive a service from the children with disabilities team, they have to meet one severe or profound need.

## What have we done?

In 2020, we asked for feedback from parents and carers.

Having read through it all we were able to identify 4 main themes which were incredibly useful, and have made some changes as a result of it.

The table to the right shows the themes and either answers the concern, or details the changes made to the eligibility criteria.

Theme	Response
Concerns about the criteria being legal	This eligibility criteria for children with disabilities has been scrutinized and passed by our legal team. The criteria meets with the requirements of current legislation.
That the criteria isn't specific enough	Some people were concerned about the use of words such as 'may and usually'. The use of these words have been cleared by our legal team and give the criteria the flexibility to change with any future legislation changes.
That the criteria is confusing and will not be understood	We have changed some words and added a glossary to make the eligibility criteria clearer and more easily understood. We have also developed two easy-read versions of the eligibility criteria which will be made available for anyone to access.
What happens to the children who do not fit into the criteria	We have added a diagram to show how to find out what support you may be able to access if you don't meet the criteria for Children with Disabilities.

## Assessment

Children who are under the age of 18 and who have a disability will usually have their needs assessed under section 17 of the Children Act 1989

If the child is approaching adulthood and it appears to social workers that the child is likely to have needs for care and support after becoming 18, a transition assessment may be undertaken under section 58 Care Act 2014. An adult will be assessed under section 9 Care Act 2014. Needs assessments will be used to gather information to determine needs, whether the threshold for the CWD Team is met and to identify the level and type of resource provision needed. The CWD Team will usually only provide services to children and young people who have permanent and substantial disabilities at a severe or profound level.

The Council defines permanent and substantial as follows:

- **Substantial** means considerable or significant factors that are life changing or limiting, and might include issues to do with risk and dependency.
- **Permanent** means existing indefinitely and not expected to improve. The factors which will be applied to determine whether a permanent and substantial disability is profound or severe or otherwise are set out in the table overleaf



Disability	Meets Criteria for Specialist Provision		Meets Criteria for Inclusive Provision	
LEVEL	Profound	Severe	Moderate	Mild
<b>Health</b> 	<p>Complex health needs prevents participation in social and educational activities without minimum of constant 24 hour 1:1 specialist support</p> <p>Condition is unable to be controlled by medication</p>	<p>Requires daily specialist medical or nursing care.</p> <p>Regular admissions to hospital for treatment.</p> <p>Daily use of specialist equipment that needs operational assistance.</p> <p>Life limiting condition.</p> <p>Requires intensive therapy programme.</p> <p>Health needs have a significant impact on development and learning.</p>	<p>Regular nursing care and support (more than once or twice weekly).</p> <p>Uses specialist equipment that needs operational assistance.</p> <p>A planned programme of therapy required for the disability.</p> <p>Complex daily medication.</p> <p>Unstable health which impacts adversely on child and or family.</p> <p>Health needs limit ability to perform everyday tasks.</p>	<p>Requires no or minimal nursing care or support.</p> <p>Routine medical checks only.</p> <p>Nil or minimal treatment/medication.</p> <p>No or little therapy involved with disability.</p> <p>Uses specialist equipment that does not require operational assistance.</p> <p>Known health condition which is under control and only occasionally interfering with everyday activities in a minor way.</p>

Disability	Meets Criteria for Specialist Provision		Meets Criteria for Inclusive Provision	
LEVEL	Profound	Severe	Moderate	Mild
<b>Education</b>	<p>Child/Young Person has a profound learning difficulty.</p> <p>Attends educational provision for with Profound Learning Difficulties</p> <p>Follows P Levels of the curriculum.</p>	<p>Child/Young Person has a severe learning difficulty.</p> <p>Attends educational provision for children with severe learning difficulties.</p> <p>Follows P Levels of the curriculum.</p>	<p>Attends educational provision with 1:1 support some of the time or a specialist provision not for profound or severe learning difficulties.</p> <p>Assessment shows abilities will achieve less than 70% of the expected attainment for age.</p>	<p>Attends mainstream school/pre-school/college with or without support.</p> <p>Assessment shows abilities will achieve within 70-80% of the expected attainment for age.</p>
<b>Communication</b> 	<p>No verbal communication.</p> <p>Unable to communicate needs using any method.</p> <p>Unable to use communication aid.</p> <p>Severely delayed processing skills.</p>	<p>None or very little communication used but can communicate at least basic needs using any method.</p> <p>Significantly delayed processing skills.</p>	<p>Delayed or disordered communication including language disorders causing significant difficulty in communicating outside the home.</p> <p>Reduced ability to understand and process information in comparison to peers.</p>	<p>Marked delay in language development.</p> <p>Requires minimal support to communicate.</p> <p>Able to use signing or other communication method consistently.</p>

Disability	Meets Criteria for Specialist Provision		Meets Criteria for Inclusive Provision	
LEVEL	Profound	Severe	Moderate	Mild
<p><b>Behaviour associated with the disability</b></p> 	<p>Profound challenging behaviour which impacts on all aspects of the Child/ Young Person's functioning and the Child/Young Person poses a severe risk to self or others.</p> <p>Requires constant monitoring, supervision and a structured programme for managing behaviour overseen by specialist services.</p> <p>Frequent behaviour that may be of risk to the child or carers.</p> <p>No awareness of impact of behaviour on others.</p>	<p>Behaviour demonstrates significant risk to self or others.</p> <p>Requires monitoring, supervision and a structured programme for managing behaviour overseen by specialist services.</p> <p>Challenging behaviour which impact significantly on community life and requires specialist provision to function socially/educationally.</p>	<p>Behaviour demonstrates moderate risk to self or others.</p> <p>Requires monitoring/ supervision in some circumstances.</p> <p>Input required to manage behaviour.</p> <p>Has difficulties in relating to peers.</p> <p>Behavioural or management difficulties which may require specialist advice.</p>	<p>Behaviour does not demonstrate to self and others.</p> <p>Need for monitoring/ supervision appropriate for age.</p> <p>Minor difficulties in relationships with parents/ peers/others.</p> <p>Behaviour that can be difficult to manage at times but can be managed without specialist provision.</p>

Disability	Meets Criteria for Specialist Provision		Meets Criteria for Inclusive Provision	
LEVEL	Profound	Severe	Moderate	Mild
<p><b>Family and Social Relationships</b></p>	<p>Inability to build and maintain friendships and relationships without constant support with all aspects.</p> <p>Total dependence on carer for social integration.</p> <p>Very limited awareness of impact of behaviour on others.</p>	<p>Limited ability to build and maintain friendships without significant support with all aspects.</p>	<p>Difficulty building and maintaining friendships and relationships without support.</p>	<p>Able to sustain limited peer relationships and social integration with support.</p>
<p><b>Self-Care</b></p> 	<p>Fully dependent on others for all personal care, (eating/ drinking/toileting and washing).</p> <p>Needs physical support with all personal care.</p> <p>Requires specialist equipment to support all their care needs.</p>	<p>Needs physical assistance with personal care.</p> <p>Needs high level of supervision with all personal care (eating/ drinking/toileting and washing).</p>	<p>Requires some prompts and supervision greater than that expected for developmental age.</p>	<p>Independent in majority of personal care activities.</p> <p>Requires occasional supervision beyond that expected for chronological age.</p>

Disability	Meets Criteria for Specialist Provision		Meets Criteria for Inclusive Provision	
LEVEL	Profound	Severe	Moderate	Mild
<b>Safety</b> 	Needs constant supervision both during the day and night.  Does not have any awareness of danger to self or others.	Needs constant supervision during the day.  Would place themselves or others at risk without supervision.  No awareness of danger to self or others.	Needs some supervision at times.  Limited perception of danger to self or others.	Occasionally requires more supervision than Children/ Young People of same age.  Some awareness of danger to self or others.
<b>Mobility</b> 	Unable to walk.  Uses wheelchair.  Totally dependent upon carer for mobility.	Unable to walk. May be able to stand or transfer with support.  Able to manoeuvre self at least some of the time.	Walks but only with aids or assistance.  May use wheelchair for intermittent use.	Able to walk and function independently but with some limitation of function.
<b>Children under the age of 5 years</b> 	Child requires significantly greater care and attention because of the nature of health or learning condition. Significant failure to reach developmental milestones.	Child is functioning around 1/2 the level expected for their age.	Child is functioning around 2/3 of the level expected for their age.	Child is functioning slightly behind the level expected for their age.

Disability	Meets Criteria for Specialist Provision		Meets Criteria for Inclusive Provision	
LEVEL	Profound	Severe	Moderate	Mild
<b>Visual impairment</b> 	Mobility restricted without special provision  Requires education by non-sighted methods.  Eligible for registration as blind.	Mobility restricted without special provision.  Unable to read large print without intensive educational assistance or aids.  Severe visual field defect with impaired visual acuity.  Eligible for registration as blind or partially sighted.	Able to read print with simple aid or assistance.  Defect of at least half the visual field.  May be eligible for registration as partially sighted.	Severe or profound problem with one eye.  Less than half visual field loss.  Able to function independently.
<b>Hearing impairment</b> 	Total or near total loss of hearing. (<95Db)	Severe hearing loss (71-95 Db)	Significant hearing loss but able to function with a hearing aid.  Hearing loss (41-70Db)	Severe or profound hearing loss in one ear.  Moderate hearing loss (20-40Db)

## Case responsibility and management

Taking into consideration all relevant available information a decision will be made by the CWD Team Manager, in conjunction with the Contact Centre and SPOC (Single Point of Contact for Early Help & Children’s Social Care), as to whether the eligibility criteria are likely to be met. If it is likely that the eligibility criteria will be satisfied, a needs assessment will be undertaken by the CWD Team. Once the child/young person’s needs have been assessed and the eligibility criteria applied, a decision will be made as to the most appropriate team to support the child/young person and their family. If the child/young person is eligible for services from the CWD Team, the CWD Team will be responsible for case management including safeguarding.

Children and young people will usually be reviewed every 3 months to determine if the eligibility criteria continue to be met and if services are meeting assessed needs.

If the child/young person is not eligible for services from the CWD Team but is assessed as having needs which the Council will meet, the child/young person will be transferred via a transfer meeting to a non-disability specialist team.



## Children and young people who do not satisfy the eligibility criteria

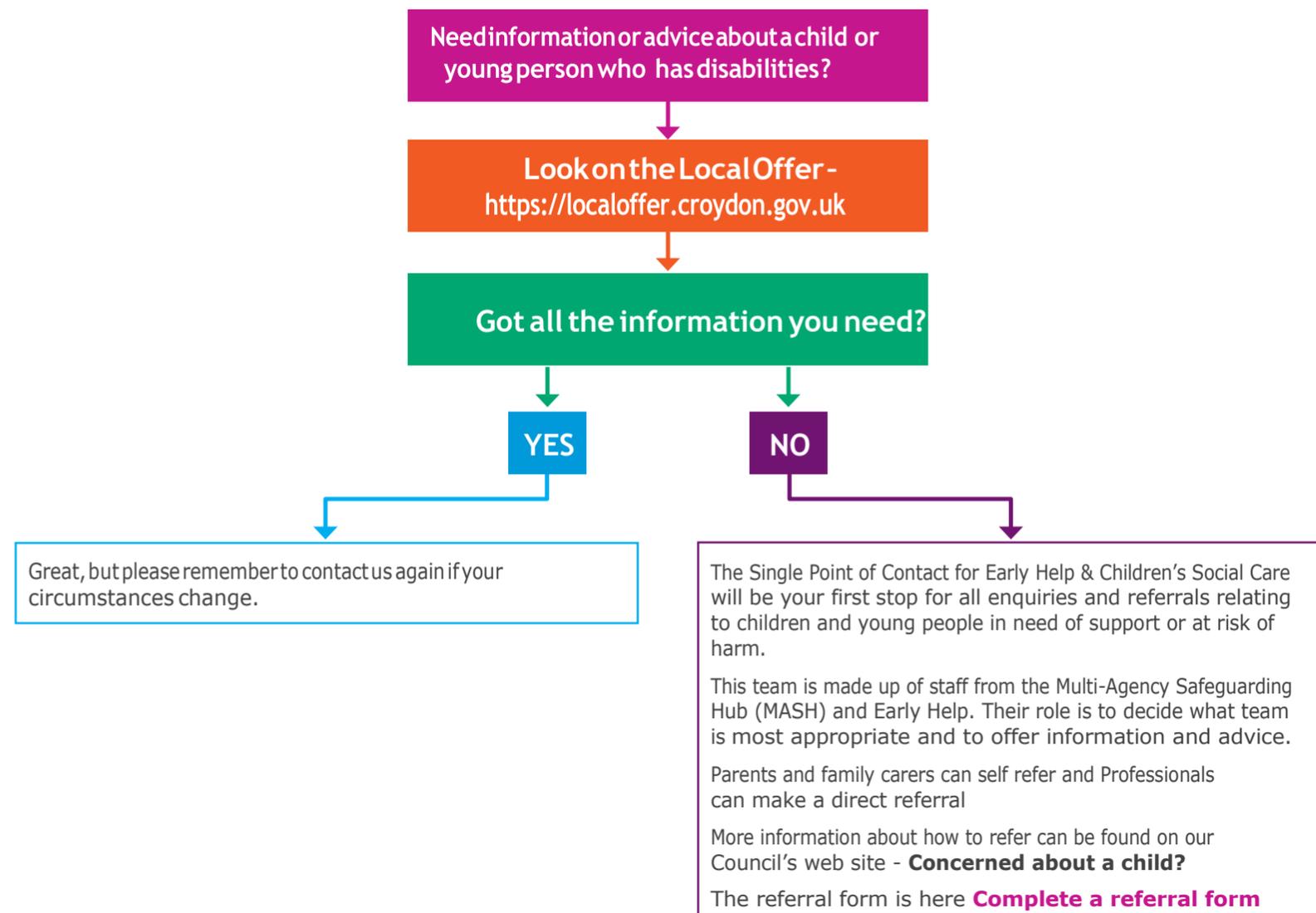
Some children and young people will have disabilities but will not have needs that require the specialist support and resources provided by the CWD Team. These will usually include children and young people who:

- Present with a permanent or substantial disability at a moderate or mild level.
- Present with a disability or disabilities that are not permanent or substantial.
- Present with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties due to social or environmental factors i.e. the behaviour is not associated with a disability.
- Present with mental health disorders unless in conjunction with an additional severe to profound learning, physical or communication disability.

Children and young people in these categories may still receive services from the Council’s Children’s Social Care Service working together with other relevant services. For example, children with mental health disorders will usually receive services from the Children’s Social Care Service and NHS Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.



**HOW DO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE FIND OUT ABOUT OTHER SERVICES AND SUPPORT IF THEY DON'T MEET THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**



**GLOSSARY**

<b>Adult Social Care and All Age Disability Service</b>	The service looks after people who are over 65 and also anyone with a disability, for example sensory, learning or physical.	<b>Developmental milestones</b>	A set of functional skills or age-specific tasks that most children can do at a certain age range
<b>Transition assessment</b>	A transition assessment supports a young person and their family plan for the future, by providing them with information about what they can expect, based on an assessment of their needs, wishes and desired outcomes	<b>Visual field defect</b>	A visual field defect is a loss of part of the usual field of vision, so it does not include severe visual impairment of either one eye or both. The lesion may be anywhere along the optic pathway; retina to occipital cortex
<b>Care Act 2014</b>	The Care Act 2014 is an Act of the Parliament. The main purpose of the act is to overhaul the existing 60-year-old legislation regarding social care in England to ensure that care and support is consistent across England. - <a href="https://www.croydon.gov.uk/adult-care/policies-and-feedback/the-care-act">https://www.croydon.gov.uk/adult-care/policies-and-feedback/the-care-act</a>	<b>Visual acuity</b>	A measure of the ability of the eye to distinguish shapes and the details of objects at a given distance
<b>Needs assessments</b>	An assessment carried out by a social worker when it is believed your child is eligible for support	<b>Visual field</b>	Refers to the total area in which objects can be seen in the side (peripheral) vision as you focus your eyes on a central point
<b>Children Act 1989</b>	Allocates duties to local authorities, courts, parents, and other agencies in the United Kingdom, to ensure children are safeguarded and their welfare is promoted	<b>Db</b>	The decibel is the unit used to measure the intensity of a sound
<b>Congenital deformity</b>	A congenital deformity is a change in the normal size or shape of a body part caused by a condition that a baby is born with	<b>Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services</b>	A term for all services that work with children and young people who have difficulties with their emotional or behavioural wellbeing
<b>Statutory</b>	Decided, controlled, or required by law	<b>MASH</b>	The Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) brings key professionals together to facilitate early, better quality information sharing, analysis and decision-making, to safeguard vulnerable children, young people more effectively
<b>Specialist Provision</b>	For children and young people who require a highly individualised and personalised programme of work. This group includes children with complex learning and communication needs and those children who are cognitively able and have specific speech, language or communication needs	<b>Case management</b>	Case Management is a collaborative process which: assesses, plans, implements, co-ordinates, monitors and evaluates the options and services required to meet an individual's health, social care, educational and employment needs, using communication and available resources to promote quality cost effective outcomes
<b>Inclusive Provision</b>	Children and Young People with a broad range of additional needs	<b>Safeguarding</b>	The action taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm
<b>P Levels</b>	The P scales are a set of descriptions for recording the achievement of pupils with special educational needs (SEN) who are working towards the first level of the National Curriculum (level 1). They are split into eight different levels with P1 being the lowest and P8 the highest		
<b>Attainment</b>	The act of achieving something		
<b>Developmental age</b>	A developmental age is a child's age at which they function emotionally, physically, cognitively and socially		
<b>Chronological age</b>	A child's chronological age is their age based on their date of birth		



## Eligibility Criteria for the Children with Disabilities Social Care Team

May 2021