**Child with Disability/Child in Need process**

The children open to the Disabled Children and Young Adults Team 0-25 Life Stages Service are known as CDW (child with disability) CiN cases and the process is as follows:

All LAC, CP and statutory CiN cases are worked/managed as per Darlington/national guidelines. Within the team this represents a small cohort of open cases (currently 5 cases). The majority (128 cases) of open case fall within the CWD/CiN category.

The agreed team process in working with these CWD/children is that a CiN sub category has been developed that is balanced to meet their specific need. For example visiting frequency and case supervision are agreed as 3 monthly as a minimum, the children are seen and where possible seen on their own (or their own in a setting, such as a school) Social workers request/see the child’s bedroom should there be any concerns but generally their bedroom is seen at the point of assessment. The general premise is recognition that this group of children have a set of unique circumstances that need to be taken into account. This is consistent with most other local authority’s arrangements for disabled children. These cases are distinguished on Liquid Logic (LL) by their unique CWD logo (but where also open to Life Stages).

The team assess children using the Children and Families (C&F) Assessment but within this there is a Disabled Children Assessment, found only in CWD cases on the tab at the side called Care and Support Needs. The assessment details and analysis are clearly contained in this assessment along with a RAS (Resource Allocation System) and eligibility rationale for services from the Disabled Children and Young Adults Team 0-25 Life Stages Services. Where eligible a child will have a CWD CiN Plan which has been developed to meet the requirements, please note this is not formatted in the same way as statutory CiN cases.

The majority of children and families the team works with have self-referred or requested a professional refer on their behalf and so, the focus of the work within the assessment would be in relation the impact of the disability but this would not be with the exclusion of covering the required elements of the C&F Assessment. However at any point during an assessment or on-going work with a child/family, if it is felt the threshold has been met to step up to a statutory CiN/safeguarding this will be actioned (Team Manager decision ).

The team often work with cases longer term and as such the child’s assessment (which can be a Specialist Disabled Children’s Assessment) could have been completed within CareFirst so prior to when we launched LL. Although an assessment may have ‘pulled through’ from CareFirst it will be blank as the information cannot be pulled through unless it has been like for like. So for example a case recording will be fully pulled through in to a case recording as this is like for like. CareFirst is still available for read only functions.