

Children's Disability Service

Eligibility and Threshold Criteria

This guidance is to help parents and carers and staff identify children and young people who, through disability, meet the threshold for the Children's Disability Service, and to establish their eligibility for an assessment or services.

This guidance should be read alongside the North East Lincolnshire Council Threshold of Need & Guidance Document (2020)

<https://www.safernel.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Threshold-of-Need-2020-Inc-Extra-Fam-Sexual-Neglect-A11y.pdf>

North East Lincolnshire Council makes a distinction between Children in Need and the needs of children and young people with substantial or profound disabilities and provides a Children with Disability Service for this group.

For a referral to be accepted by the Children's Disability Service the child or young person must have a disability that has been formally diagnosed (or likely to be diagnosed), be permanent or long term and meets at least one of the following criteria:

- A substantial or profound learning disability
- A substantial or profound physical disability
- Substantial or profound sensory disability
- Complex medical needs or long-term condition expected to disable the child for more than one year
- Life threatening and or life limiting condition or illness
- Substantial communication disabilities or behavioural difficulties related to the child's disability
- Substantial development delay
- A combination of disabilities, which individually are not substantial but together cause as much stress and impact on their lives as a substantial disability
- Substantial hearing impairment or deafness
- Substantial visual impairment or blindness
- Children with mental health disorders unless in conjunction with a learning, physical or communication disability

These criteria are based on the definition of disability set out in the Children Act 1989, this legislation also provides further guidance. Where there is uncertainty, the application of concepts "**substantial and permanent**" could help make good judgements.

- **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. However, there must be sufficient flexibility to take account of intermittent or episodic conditions.

The criteria does **not** include children with:

- A disability or disabilities that are not substantial
- Behavioural problems due to social/environmental factors (i.e. not associated to a disability)

Children who do not meet the eligibility criteria for an assessment by the Children's Disability Service may be entitled to an assessment by the Assessment and Intervention Service, this decision will be made by the Integrated Front Door. Please note registration on the Disability Register is not sufficient evidence that a child meets the eligibility criteria for Children's Disability Service as the register includes children with a wide range of Special Educational Needs.

A parent/carer or multi agency partner can request an assessment for any child/young person, 0 – 18 years, who meets the criteria for Children with Disabilities and lives in North East Lincolnshire via **NELC Children's Integrated Front Door, 01472 326292 option 2.**

Referrals received in the Integrated Front Door will also provide advice and guidance around the Local Offer available and consider Early Help or Early Years Services. However, for children with a disability and parenting or a safeguarding concern, these referrals would be directed to the Children's Disability Service.

Following the acceptance of the referral to the Children with Disabilities Service an assessment of support required for the parent and/or assessment of child/young person will be completed by a Social Worker within 45 days of receipt.

Where the assessment concludes that services are required, it may recommend one or more of the following:

- Advice and guidance around access to the Local Offer
- Early Help Services
- Early Years Services
- Short breaks (overnight stays) that can either be provided by a Local Authority Resource – Cromwell House or St Andrews Hospice
- Direct Payments so that the parents can source their own provider of support
- Education, Health & Care Plan jointly with Health and Education