



KENT COUNTY COUNCIL STRENGTHENING INDEPENDENCE SERVICE DISABLED CHILDREN ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA 0-18 YEARS

Introduction

The criteria for the Disabled Children Service establishes the threshold at which a referral in relation to a disabled child will be accepted on the basis that the child may require a specialist social care service.

Where a child has disabilities which appear to meet the criteria and particularly call for specialist intervention, these children will be referred to the Disabled Children Team(0-18 years) or the Sensory team.

The criteria are that the child must have a permanent or long-lasting disability (diagnosed by a doctor or consultant) and be severely or profoundly impaired.

The criteria do not include children diagnosed with ADHD or a psychiatric illness.

Any children diagnosed with ADHD, or a psychiatric illness therefore will only be eligible for referral to the Disabled Children Service, if they also have other disabilities which meet the criteria.

The criteria does not include children presenting with social, emotional, and behavioural difficulties due to social or environmental factors i.e., the behaviour is not primarily associated with a disability.

Referral

Where a referral is received and it appears that the criteria for the Disabled Children's or Sensory Team are met, consultation may take place and advice sought as to whether the criteria for assessment is met.

Referral to the Disabled Children's or Sensory Team may be made for any disabled child/young person from birth up to age 18 years who is permanently resident within Kent County Council boundaries and whose disability is permanent or long term (for more than one year) and meets one of the severe or profound categories as described below. During the assessment process, expected milestones will be considered according to the child/young person's chronological age. Disabled children/young people living in Kent in foster care or in a residential children's home, placed by another Local Authority, remain the responsibility of that authority with regard to meeting their care needs.

Young People 17 ½ years plus who do not meet the Disabled Children's Team

From 17 ½ years plus, young people who do not meet the Disabled Children & Young People's Service criteria who have the appearance of need for post 18 years support, as set out in the Care and Support Statutory Guidance, may be assessed by the Young People's Team. The National Minimum Eligibility Criteria will be applied following the assessment, as set out in the Care Act 2014. For more information on accessing adult social care go to:

[How to get adult social care support - Kent County Council](#)

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Assessment

All children who meet the criteria for the Disabled Children Service including the Sensory Children and Families Team will receive a Children and Families Assessment proportionate to their needs. This may be the full or shorter version, depending on the needs of the child and family.

The Children and Families Assessment will be carried out in consultation with the family, using information from other professionals as appropriate.


It is the impact the disability has on daily living that is a key part of the assessment.



Additional specialist assessments will be commissioned as necessary from:

- Occupational Therapy.
- Sensory Team (please see details below)

The assessment may identify that needs arise due to a child's disability or because of a parent's health or disability or a child may be in need of protection from abuse or neglect.

Following assessment, the provision of services are based on identified unmet need. Children may meet the eligibility criteria but their needs can be met through community resources, specialist health provision or existing support networks. In these circumstances there would not be an ongoing role for the Strengthening Independence Service.

Disability				
Level	Mild	Moderate	Severe	Profound
Mobility 	<p>I can walk; however, I am slower than my peers. I am unable to run.</p>	<p>I can walk, but I find this difficult. I am dependent on my walking aids. I sometimes use my wheelchair if I am tired or for long distances.</p>	<p>I am a wheelchair user. I cannot walk. I may be able to stand or transfer with adult support. I may need moving and handling equipment to keep me safe. Some of the time I can operate my own wheelchair.</p> <p>I may be reliant upon equipment such as hoisting, standing frames, walkers, and specialist chairs.</p>	<p>I am unable to help with any aspect of my mobility and I am dependent on trained adults and carers to do this for me. I am wheelchair dependent.</p> <p>I am unable to operate my own wheelchair.</p>


<p>Fine Motor Skills</p> 	<p>I can find it difficult to play, mark make or write, this is because my hand is not steady and my fine motor skills are below the expected level for my chronological age.</p>	<p>I can move my hands, but this is difficult for me. I can struggle to cut out shapes on paper, button my clothes and consistently pick up objects.</p> <p>I need adult support and aids to help me.</p>	<p>I struggle to use my hands; however, I can operate switch systems to use my toys, communication aids and wheelchair.</p>	<p>I am unable to use my hands to operate even specialist adapted equipment such as switch systems.</p>
<p>Personal Care</p> 	<p>I am independent with my personal care tasks. I have slight difficulties with eating, drinking, washing, or dressing but mostly manage independently.</p> <p>I am a young child functioning slightly behind the level expected for my age.</p>	<p>I require some prompts or supervision and/or require assistance for some activities with or without the use of aids.</p> <p>I am a young child functioning around two thirds of the level expected for my age.</p>	<p>I need physical assistance for most of my personal care. This includes drinking, washing, and dressing, beyond what is expected for my chronological age.</p>	<p>I am fully dependent on my carers to carry out my personal care tasks.</p> <p>I am over five years old and total care is required.</p> <p>I am unable to provide any support to my carers/ parents with my personal care tasks.</p>

<p>Toileting</p> 	<p>I have slight difficulties but manage my toileting independently. I am over five and regularly wet the bed at night. I am dry during the day.</p>	<p>I am over 5 and soil occasionally. I am over 8 years of age with occasional day time wetting. I am over 11 and wet most nights. My ability to go to the toilet independently may improve with training and support.</p>	<p>I have a severe learning disability or severe physical disability and continence is unlikely to improve with training and support.</p>	<p>I have a severe learning disability or severe physical disability, with no control over my bowel or bladder movement and continence will not improve with training and support</p>
<p>Physical Health</p> 	<p>I have a known persistent illness or a condition, which is under control and only occasionally interferes with my everyday activities in a minor way.</p>	<p>I have intermittent spells of being unwell with regular limitation of normal activities. It may interfere with my education or my development.</p>	<p>I have long term severe and significant interference with 'normal' activities which is associated with my physical and/or learning disability, or life-limiting condition which is degenerative.</p>	<p>I am unable to take part in any social or education activities without support. I am fully dependent on medical/nursing support.</p>
<p>Communication</p> 	<p>I have delayed language development only.</p>	<p>I have delayed and/or disordered language development causing significant difficulty in my communication with people who do not know me well. My speech is supported by signing or a communication aid. I am unable to use speech in a socially interactive manner</p>	<p>I use no or little speech to communicate but I can communicate at least basic needs using speech, signing or communication aids, in line with my chronological age. For example, I might have severe autism with a severe learning disability and severe sensory dysfunction or may indicate my wants by leading people to what I want.</p>	<p>I am unable to communicate needs by any method and I am unable to use communication aids.</p>

<p>Learning</p> 	<p>I am a child who performs slightly behind that expected for my age.</p> <p>My learning needs are impacted by my disability.</p> <p>It is recommended that I should have a differentiated curriculum in school.</p> <p>I am a school age child in a mainstream setting.</p>	<p>I am a child whose learning is around the level typical of a child who is two thirds of their chronological age.</p> <p>I am a school age child with a mild learning disability and with multiple needs.</p>	<p>I am a school age child who has a severe learning disability or severe physical disability whose curriculum needs to be significantly modified to support my learning needs and I am working significantly below national curriculum levels</p>	<p>I have a severe learning disability and my curriculum must be totally modified to support my learning needs and am working completely below expected levels.</p> <p>I am a child whose learning is below the level typical of a child who is half their chronological age.</p>
<p>Behavioural and social interaction</p> 	<p>I have some behaviour difficulties- mild, transient, or infrequent. My behaviour can be managed without any special provision.</p>	<p>I struggle to manage my emotions, and this can result in me presenting with some behaviours that present a moderate risk to myself or others.</p> <p>My behaviours may lead to me needing support for a specialist intervention. E.g., Early Help, CAMHS and school.</p>	<p>I have a diagnosed physical and/or severe learning disability, or Autism that impacts on me being able to regulate my emotions and I might present with behaviours that are a significant risk to myself and others.</p> <p>I can present with behaviours that have a severe impact on my family's functioning, interacting with my peers and my daily life.</p> <p>I need intensive specialist intervention (which is beyond tier 3 services) to help me and my family, therefore reducing the risk of family</p>	<p>I have a diagnosed physical and/or severe learning disability, or Autism which significantly affects all aspects of my functioning continuously without specialist support or provision. This includes where serious behaviour problems place me, my siblings and/or carers at a high risk of significant harm.</p> <p>My family is close to breakdown and I am at risk of being looked after outside my family home</p> <p>My primary need associated with my behaviour is due to my disability and not because of past trauma or parenting approaches.</p>

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<p>Consciousness</p> 	<p>I have occasional daytime seizures, up to one per day</p>	<p>I have some seizures most weeks, day or night.</p>	<p>I have many seizures on most days and nights. This adversely affects my development, education, or daily living.</p>	<p>I am in a coma or experience intractable seizures in frequent succession. This profoundly affects my ability to join in with day to day activities. I need full supervision and assistance with all my care needs.</p>
<p>Pre-school Children</p> 	<p>I am a child functioning slightly behind the level expected for my age.</p>	<p>I am a child who is functioning around 2/3 of the level expected for my age.</p>	<p>I am a child who requires greater care and attention compared to a child of the same age because of the severe nature of my health or learning condition. It is unlikely that my developmental milestones will be met without further training and support.</p>	<p>I am a child who requires significantly greater care and attention compared to a child of the same age because of the profound nature of my health or learning condition. I am significantly failing to reach my developmental milestones. I have a specific social care need that has been identified, that</p>

			<p>I have a specific social care need that has been identified, that requires specialist support beyond universal services, nursery, health interventions and beyond the expected social opportunities parents or the wider family network can offer.</p>	<p>requires specialist support beyond universal services, nursery, health interventions and beyond the expected social opportunities parents or the wider family network can offer.</p>
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Sensory Impairments				
Level	Mild	Moderate	Profound	Severe
<p>Visual impairment</p> 	<p>I have a severe or profound problem in one of my eyes.</p> <p>I have less than half visual field loss and I am able to function independently.</p> <p>My condition can be managed/maintained with glasses.</p>	<p>I can read print with simple aids and/or assistance.</p> <p>I have a loss of at least half of my visual field.</p> <p>I may be eligible for registration as partially sighted.</p>	<p>My mobility is restricted without specialist provision.</p> <p>I am unable to read large print without intensive assistance or aids.</p> <p>I have a severe visual field defect with impaired visual sharpness.</p> <p>I am eligible for registration as severely sight impaired or partially sighted.</p>	<p>My mobility is impaired without specialist provision.</p> <p>I require education through non-sighted methods.</p> <p>I am eligible for registration as severely sight impaired.</p>

<p>Hearing impairment</p> 	<p>I have severe or profound hearing loss in one ear.</p> <p>I have moderate hearing loss (20-40 Db).</p>	<p>I have significant hearing loss, but I can function with the support of hearing aids.</p> <p>I have hearing loss (41-70Db).</p>	<p>I have severe hearing loss (71-95Db).</p>	<p>I have total or near total hearing loss (greater than 95Db).</p>
		<p align="center">Multi-Sensory Impairment</p> <p>Persons are considered deafblind if their combined sight and hearing impairment causes difficulties with communication, access to information and mobility. Both criteria around visual impairment and hearing impairment will be applied in cases of multi-sensory impairment.</p> 		

If, on referral or after assessment, several mild or moderate categories are met which significantly impact on the child or young person’s ability to reach their potential, the referrer will be signposted to other agencies who can offer appropriate support or will be referred on to Early Help services, with the family’s agreement.

On occasions the Strengthening Independence Service may assess that the child or young person meets the criteria for a time limited intervention from the Kent Enablement and Prevention Service (KEPS). All children and young people eligible for this service must meet at least one severe or profound category set out in the eligibility criteria.

Assessments include the needs of parents/carers, however parents/carers of disabled children and young people can request a separate carer's assessment from their local authority. The request will then be allocated to the appropriate team, depending on the nature of the child/young person's disability.

Young Carers will be signposted to an independent Young Carers' Service, commissioned by the Local Authority.

All assessments will consider family capacity, environmental factors and support networks before a service is offered.

As outlined in our service title we want families to be as autonomous as possible. We work towards empowering children and their families to have minimum intrusion in their life and ideally want you to have limited involvement with specialist services. It may be assessed in the future that the same level of intervention is not required as at the point of referral due to the fantastic progress that has been made by children and their families. This is a time to celebrate as specialist services may no longer be required.

Further information about services and resources for disabled children and their families can be found on the local offer found on Kent County Council Website. Please see link below.

[About the SEND local offer - Kent County Council](#)

[February 2024](#)

