

# PROVIDING EXTRA SUPPORT FOR YOUR FAMILY THROUGH A CHILD IN NEED PLAN



**children** AT THE  
**heart** OF **all we do**



City of  
**BRADFORD**  
METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A Child in Need Plan will give you and your family extra support to help you look after your child. The support will be provided by Bradford Children's Social Care alongside a range of other agencies such as health visitors and your child's school, as well as specialist services.

### WHY DOES MY FAMILY NEED A CHILD IN NEED PLAN?

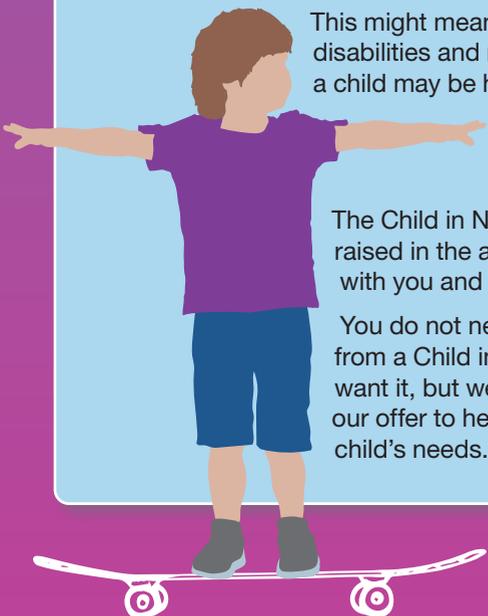
We know that parents/carers want to do their best for their children and all families need help from time to time. This help can come from friends and family or from local groups and community hubs, but there may be occasions when more support is needed to prevent problems getting worse.

A child is considered to be 'in need' when they need extra help to reach or maintain a reasonable standard of health and development, because the support provided by the services that everyone gets, like schools and health is not enough on its own to make things better.

This might mean a child has special health needs or disabilities and needs extra services for them and for you; a child may be having significant problems at school, or be 'in trouble', or be struggling emotionally because of other family problems such as parental illness or domestic abuse.

The Child in Need Plan will work on the worries raised in the assessment that we completed with you and your family.

You do not need to accept the support from a Child in Need Plan if you do not want it, but we hope you will take up our offer to help you meet your child's needs.



### WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

You, the professionals who work with your family, such as teachers and health visitors, and your Social Worker will meet to put together the plan. Your child will also be encouraged to come to the meeting, if they are old enough. We will make sure they just come for the part that concerns them, and do not hear private information about you or their brothers and sisters.

The plan will be a list of all the things that people think will help make things better. We know you are the expert about your family, so it is very important that you tell us what you think will help and what won't. We want you to get the right support at the right time.

The plan will be clear about who needs to do the tasks and when they should be done. Everyone around the table, including you, will get jobs to do, and the meeting may decide that new people should get involved too.

**WE KNOW YOU ARE THE EXPERT ABOUT YOUR FAMILY, SO IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU TELL US WHAT YOU THINK WILL HELP AND WHAT WON'T.**

### WHAT DO WE NEED FROM YOU?

We will only achieve the plan if we work together and so it is important for you to be open, honest and engage with us and with all the people working with your family. We hope to build a good relationship with you and your child.

We will want to visit you and your child to talk about the tasks in the plan and to find out how things are going. We need you to make sure you and your children are available for our visits and that you attend the meetings. If you are struggling to complete your own tasks from the plan, please do talk to us so we can help.

### REVIEWING THE PLAN

We will meet regularly to check that things are improving for your child. We will sign off tasks in the plan that have been completed, and set up new ones if we need to. The meeting is a good time to check that things are being done as quickly as they can be.

Things will change for your family whilst we are working with you and so we will regularly update our assessment to make sure the plan is meeting your child's needs in the best way possible.



## WHEN WILL THE PLAN END?

Your child will no longer be a child in need when things have improved to the point that you, your child and the people working with you agree you no longer need this support. Your Social Worker will stop visiting your family, and will not be involved in organising the services your family gets.

You will not be left unsupported if you still need help. Lots of services will carry on working with you. You may still have regular meetings to make sure all the support stays 'joined up'. These meetings will be arranged by a professional already working with you, like your child's school or your health visitor.

You can stop the Child in Need Plan at any point if you choose, but if you are thinking about ending the plan early, please do talk to us first, so we can look at options to make things work better for you.

If at any time there is information that indicates your child 'is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm', your Social Worker has a legal duty to investigate. We will explain to you exactly what people are worried about and what next steps we need to take.

## IF I AM UNHAPPY WHO CAN I CONTACT?

Your Social Worker will explain your rights to you when you first meet. If you are unhappy about something, in the first instance speak to your Social Worker and we will try to sort it out.

If you are still not satisfied, then please contact the team manager. If you wish to make complaint, please write to:

**FREEPOST  
BRADFORD COUNCIL**

Please write 'Complaints Unit'  
at the back of the envelope.

Email:  
complaints.officer@bradford.gov.uk

If there is anything that you do not understand or you want more information, please speak to your Social Worker.

If you want to know what we do with your information, please have a look at our website:

[www.bradford.gov.uk/open-data/  
data-protection/childrens-social-  
care-privacy-notice/](http://www.bradford.gov.uk/open-data/data-protection/childrens-social-care-privacy-notice/)



This leaflet is available in other formats such as large print or braille. For more information call 01274 435600.