

Eligibility criteria for assessment by the Disabled Children Service

This is used by the following teams and services: Duty and Assessment Team, Area Social Work and Children in Care Teams, Transitions Worker, Early Years Service, Occupational Therapy, Social Worker for Deaf Children.

Child in Need Assessment

The Children Act 1989 includes within its 'Children in Need' definition disabled children and those with complex health needs which means children:

- who are unlikely to achieve or attain a reasonable standard of health and development without provision of services;
- whose health and development is likely to be significantly impaired without the provision of services;
- who are disabled;

A child is eligible for an assessment, if he/she:

- Has a medical diagnosis of severe physical impairment, learning impairment or Autism;
- Has a home address within the City of Bristol;
- Has needs arising from their impairment that cannot be met by services within universal children's services.

The emphasis in the assessment of a disabled child is on the impact of impairment and overcoming barriers this presents as distinct from, but not excluding, problems of family function.

The outcome of the Child in Need Assessment and subsequent plan may range from a complex, long-term written action plan, to a simple referral to another agency with recommendations or a decision to take no further action. The action plan will describe the needs identified in the needs assessment and the interventions.

The Child in Need Assessment is carried out by a social worker. If the assessment indicates that the child's needs could be met by a short break service a referral is made to the Resource Allocation Panel who will work towards finding the best model of care/short break available for the individual child. Any action or service recommended by the Resource Allocation Panel is reviewed every 6 months, in line with child-in-need procedures.

Children residing in Bristol, but who are from another area (out of authority) will be considered for a service if they are deemed to be a 'looked after' child. This is where the parent has voluntarily agreed that their child is accommodated by the Local Authority or where a court has decided to make an interim/full care order which gives joint parental care between the Local Authority and the parents.

Level of Need: Level of Intervention

The table on the next page provides information on the process undertaken by the social worker to meet the needs of the child with services available.

The first column details the level of need through identification of factors in the child's life such as sleepless nights, the complexity of care needs etc.

The second column details the possible services available such as Direct Payments or a stay at a residential centre. Whilst services are named within this column, please bear in mind the following:

- **Universal Inclusive Services** refers to those services which are deemed open to all (dependent on availability of places) and do not require referral by a social worker or GP
- **Voluntary/community groups** are organisations that may be funded by Bristol City Council, but are not run by the council. **These services are marked with a √.**

The table is formatted so that the greatest level of need (and the corresponding services available) is detailed at the top of the table with the lowest level of need and possible services available at the bottom. This table documents level of need in terms of factors in the child's life that could result in care network (family/carer) breakdown and so is focussed upon the needs of the child and the parent carers. Each child/family circumstance is different; this table provides an indication of the types of services corresponding to needs available but is not exhaustive and should only be used for guidance. The rest of this document provides an overview of the specific services available and contact details for queries.

NB: Access to hospices has not been included within this table although access to hospice care has been detailed within the document.

Level of Need	Level of Intervention
Factors in the child's life in order of risk of breakdown of the care network and risk of isolation starting with highest risk at the top	Potential services available
<p>Child is or may be at risk of significant harm or family break down and parents/carers require a break from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Disturbed nights ● Persistent challenging behaviour ● Supervision of the child's complex health care needs ● Complex manual handling tasks 	<p>For day time and or evening short breaks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bush Resource Centre - Bellbrook - All universal inclusive services - Voluntary/Community Groups - Direct Payments
<p>Parents/carers require a one-off short break in an emergency.</p> <p>Parents/carers require a time-limited break because their capacity to care is temporarily exhausted.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community Care – Complex Needs - Bush Resource Centre for overnight short breaks - All universal inclusive services - Voluntary/Community Groups - Direct Payments
<p>Parents/carers require a break to give their other dependents their uninterrupted time and attention.</p> <p>Parents/carers require a break to give uninterrupted time to themselves.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Family Link Scheme for day time and or evening short breaks - All universal inclusive services - Voluntary/Community Groups
<p>Parents/carers and siblings require a break or assistance to engage in personal leisure activities/short break that are not appropriate or enjoyable for their disabled child.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inclusive play schemes - All universal inclusive services - Voluntary/Community Groups
<p>The disabled child requires:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Substantial assistance to spend time with their friends, peer groups/social activities to provide social inclusion. ● Substantial assistance to take part in leisure activities. ● Help with setting up access to leisure activities. ● Assistance developing independence, choice and control. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Purchased personal assistance - All universal inclusive services - Voluntary/Community Groups
<p>The disabled child requires help with gaining access to peer groups/social activities to provide social inclusion.</p> <p>The disabled child requires help with gaining access to leisure activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support through Inclusive Play Project - All universal inclusive services - Voluntary/Community Groups