

# The Children and Family's Service Offer for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities in Haringey.

**January 2018**

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## 1. Introduction and legal context

The Equality Act 2010 Section 6, defines a person as having a disability, if

- a) they have a physical or mental impairment
- b) the impairment has a substantial and long –term adverse effect on the person’s ability to carry out normal day to day activities

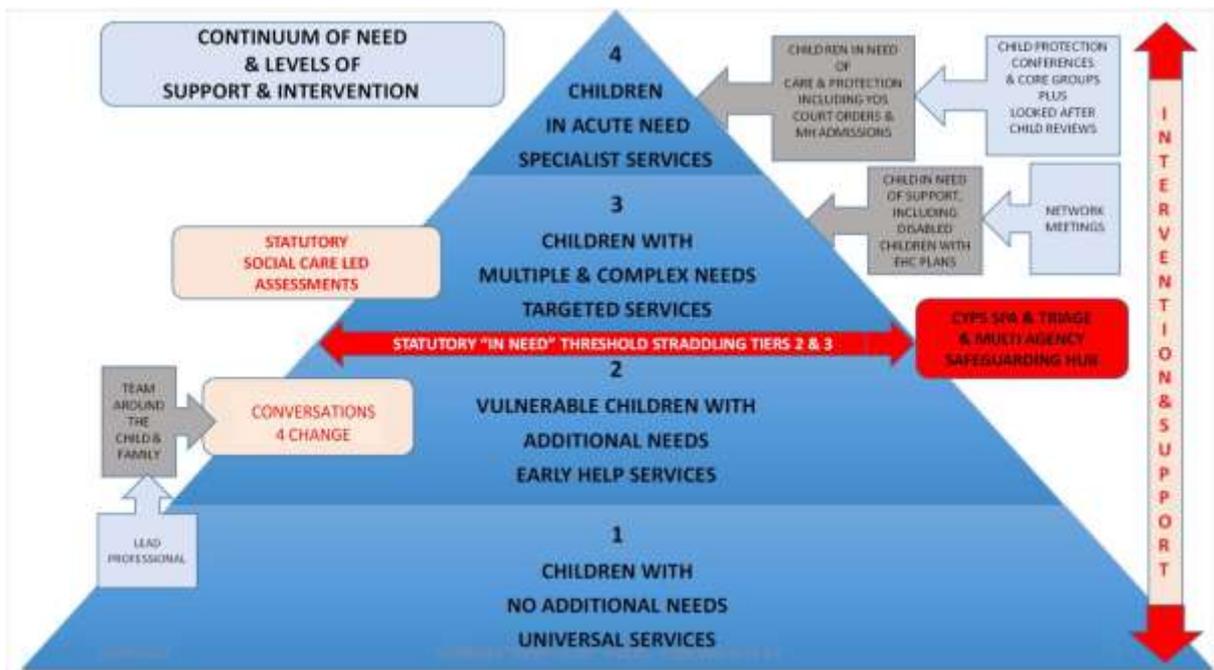
The public sector equality duty explains that a public Authority must have due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons’ who share a relevant protected characteristic and person’s who do not share it.

This means that the Local Authority must:

- remove or minimise disadvantage faced by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (a disability) that are connected to that characteristic (the impact of the disability)
- to take steps to meet the needs of persons who share relevant protected characteristics that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it. E.g. To ensure that there are relevant access arrangements in place
- Encouraging person’s who share a relevant characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
- The measures may be provided by a range of services who have the relevant skills and abilities to meet these needs.

## 2. Children and young people’s service:

**The LSCB Needs Thresholds Guidance helps practitioners to identify the level of need of a family, child or young person.** This is used by the MASH hub and all professionals in Haringey to help families, children and young people to find the service that is best able to support them. The diagram below sets out a summary of the different level of needs and key assessments/ interventions at each:



Children who have additional needs and families who are in need of support may meet the Tier 3 level of intervention for a Statutory social care led assessment.

### 3. The Children and Family’s Service offer for children with Additional Needs and Disabilities

All children will have access to the Universal offer from the health visiting and school nursing services, early years’ provisions, Schools and GPs.

The range of services on offer to children with additional needs and disabilities from the Children and Young People’s Service, will support children who have different levels of need to achieve their best educational outcomes, engage in fulfilling social and leisure activities and have positive relationships with their families and peers.

Children who require services in addition to the universal offer may need to access;

1. Haringey’s Educational Psychology service,
2. the Autism and Language service,
3. the Portage service,
4. the Hearing Impairment service / Visual Impairment Service
5. Early year’s inclusion service.

Children may also be eligible for therapy services such as Speech and Language Therapy, Physiotherapy and Occupational therapy.

Where a child’s needs are affecting their educational progress and outcomes, the school together with the family and the professionals may agree that a request for an assessment is required to identify the child’s current level of progress and functioning and

what further interventions are required to support the child's progress. The school or parent / young person may request an Education Health and Care Needs Assessment.

Haringey recognises that families and children who have special educational needs may experience challenges in accessing leisure activities and hobbies, due to a child's challenging behaviour or emotional needs and family capacity. In these situations, a referral may be considered to the Early help service or CAMHS.

The services identified above and others are documented in Haringey's Local Offer website at [www.haringey.gov.uk/children-and-families/local-offer](http://www.haringey.gov.uk/children-and-families/local-offer)

#### **4. The Early help service 0 – 18 years.**

Early help means all of the services – internal, external, voluntary and community based - that enable families to achieve sustainable, positive outcomes, become more resilient, and prevent the escalation of their needs. Early does not relate to a child's age but to catching issues early before they escalate.

The Early Help Service can offer children and families:

- Parenting support
- Managing challenging behaviour
- Improving school attendance
- Reducing the risk of exclusion
- Help accessing work
- Help with managing budgets and debts
- Managing health issues including drug and alcohol misuse
- Improving family communication.

This is achieved through two-way conversation, practical hands on support, advice and guidance and working with the whole family

The Early Help service can be contacted by downloading a referral form from <http://www.haringey.gov.uk/children-and-families/childrens-social-care/child-protection> or making a referral by contacting 020 8489 4470

#### **5. Targeted Response Team (TRT):**

The Targeted Response Team is part of Haringey's Early Help and Prevention Service within Haringey Children and Young People's Service's (CYPS), Targeted Response and Youth Justice Service and includes a team manager, senior practitioners, and practitioners with extensive experience of Family Support and Youth Work. The team also includes a group of specialist workers. The Targeted Response Team work with families where there is an allocated Social worker from Children's Social care already.

TRT practitioners will help with assessing and encouraging positive behavioural change across families and understanding the perspectives of children and young people.

The specialist workers have expertise in the following themes:

- Child and adolescent mental health
- Substance misuse
- Domestic violence and abuse
- Child Sexual Exploitation

The aim of the Targeted Response Team (TRT) is to help families make positive changes so they can stay together; The team's aim is to keep children and young people out of the care system (where this is in their best interests) and where care is avoidable, to improve their life chances. The team will work with the allocated Social worker on any of the following issues:

Risk of family breakdown and young person coming into care • Returning home from care • Child sexual exploitation • High risk of offending • Families affected by Youth Violence Or Gang activity • emotional difficulties • Substance misuse • Disability • play and Stimulation • Issues around school • Attachment and developmental trauma • Extremist Views • Violence against women and girls • Development of self-care skills

## **6. The eligibility criteria for the Disabled Children's Social Work Team (DCT)**

The Integrated service for children who have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities is part of the Early Help and Prevention Service.

The Integrated Service for children who have SEND comprises of a number of specialist teams. These include the SEN admin team who process the Education, Health and Care plans, Passenger transport, the Educational Psychology service, the Autism team and Language support team, the Hearing Impairment service, the Early Years inclusion team, Portage workers and the service also holds a contract for the Visual Impairment service, as well as the Disabled Children's Team Social Work Service.

Disability is a protected characteristic under the Equality Act. The Disabled Children's Social Work team is a specialist service as part of the Children and Young People's service. The Disabled Children's Team is therefore one part of a range of services for children with a variety of levels of additional needs and disabilities that are provided through the teams identified above.

The Disabled children's team uses a threshold of intervention, which can be found on the Haringey Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) website.

The majority of the children the Disabled Children's team works with would be in Level 3 or 4 of Haringey's Continuum of need and intervention. This is because they are children with multiple and complex needs in level 3 or as described in level 4, a child in acute need accessing specialist services. The Disabled children's level of intervention outlines the

different levels of intervention if the child meets the criteria for the Disabled Children's Team.

The Disabled Children's Social Work services are specifically arranged to offer a specialised service to those children who have an undisputed disability that can be defined as permanent and severe as outlined in the Equality Act 2010 in that;

- a) They have a physical impairment
- b) The impairment has a substantial and long –term adverse effect on the person's ability to carry out normal day to day activities

Children who have a physical or learning disability that is substantial / severe and will have a lifelong effect on their ability to carry out day to day activities, will usually have the level of need that meets the criteria for a service from the DCT.

Within this context, this will mean that more than one of the following will apply:

- (i) The child uses specialist equipment for mobility;
- (ii) The child requires support for all self-care functions when this is no longer age appropriate;
- (iii) The child's needs mean that they require constant supervision throughout the day and for prolonged periods at night, when this is no longer age appropriate due to their learning or physical disability;
- (iv) The child has highly challenging behaviour resulting from a severe disability that causes a serious risk to themselves or others (including but not exclusively, self-harm);
- (v) The child has communication needs which, without support, severely affects their personal safety (i.e. is deaf, blind or without speech);
- (vi) The child has complex feeding issues (for example, the child may need to be fed non-orally, i.e. through a gastrostomy tube); as part of the pattern of needs as described above
- (vii) The child has been diagnosed as having a profound and multiple learning disability.
- (viii) The child has a long term health condition which is life limiting or life threatening which mean that a) and b) conditions above are met.

A child or young person with an Education Health and Care (EHC) plan may be eligible for a range of support services to minimise the impact of their special educational needs on their access to activities of daily living. Being eligible for an EHC plan, however, does not mean that a child will be eligible for the Disabled Children's Teams services, in the absence of conditions described above.

## **7. The role of the Disabled Children's Social Work Team:**

The DCT is part of the Integrated Service for Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. The service comprises, the Social Work team, the Family link supervising social workers, the Haslemere Outreach service, Personal Budget officers, the Short Breaks Reviewing officer, and a Family Support Worker.

The Disabled Children Social Work Team is a specialist service that provides Social work with Disabled children that is the same offer as outlined in Paragraph 2 for children but is specifically arranged to work with children who have a permanent and substantial Disability.

The team's primary function is to ensure that disabled Young People (0-18 years of age) who meet the criteria of DCT are safely cared for within their family. The work that DCT undertakes is as follows: Safeguarding, Child Protection, Child in Care (CIC), Child in Need, Court proceedings and operating a Duty service. The team comprises of a small team of Social workers (8.4 positions) who are experienced and skilled in working with Disabled children and their families. Due to the capacity of the team siblings of Disabled children will have their needs met by other parts of the CYPS as appropriate. The resource is dedicated to supporting Disabled children to live their lives to the fullest in safe empowering environments. As part of this aim, the children who meet the criterion for the Disabled children's team have an underlying entitlement to be assessed for a Short break – see below.

Young people as they approach 18 years of age may have Care Act eligible needs as an Adult. This means that a referral to Adult services might be appropriate. The Care Act came into force in April 2015 and provides additional duties on the Local Authority.

Adult services can be contacted on the following email address: [firstresponseteam@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:firstresponseteam@haringey.gov.uk) or phoning 0208 489 1400

## **8. The Short Breaks Service:**

A child or family is eligible for an assessment for the short breaks service if they are unable to access leisure and community activities without a significant level of adjustment or there are access requirements to be met. The majority of children who have additional needs and disabilities will access universal services however due to the fact that a child has to have a permanent and substantial disability to be eligible for a service from the DCT, the majority of children will find it more difficult to access universal leisure and community activities. This means that their right to social contact must be met in another way, with more specialist services either supporting access to universal services or providing specialist services.

Short breaks are opportunities for Disabled children to enjoy activities away from their families, be independent and have fun. They also give parents and carers a chance to have a break from their day to day caring responsibilities. Short breaks used to be known

as 'respite' but the name changed because the services available to children and young people offer more than just respite.

There are many different types of short breaks on offer and these can include, home care support, school holiday clubs, after school provision, buddying services, independence skills support, domiciliary care. These are services that are designed and arranged to meet the needs of children who have a permanent and substantial disability that are profound.

The aim of the personal budget is to give children and parents flexibility, choice and control over the care or support they receive, and enables them to make decisions as a family for what works best for their own circumstances. You will only get a Personal Budget if your child has been assessed as being eligible.

## **9. How to access a short break:**

Once a child's eligibility for the DCT has been established, and if the child and / or family request an assessment for a short break, a professional who knows the child will complete a Resource Allocation System (RAS) tool with the child / family. This will provide evidence of the child's level of need. Evidence may also be used from recent assessments of the child's need.

The RAS will be forwarded to the Integrated Additional Services Panel (IASP) which meets weekly to: [IASP@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:IASP@haringey.gov.uk)

The panel shall consider the evidence in the RAS and will allocate a Personal Budget in accordance with the child's level of need.

The child and family shall receive notification of the Panel's decisions in writing from the Panel administrator.

A personal budget is the contribution that the Council is making towards the cost of Short Break services for a child.

If a Personal Budget is allocated, the child and their family can make choices as to how they receive the services. These are;

- Through a Direct payment  
The payment is paid to a bank account that is exclusively used for the purpose of the Personal Budget account and the Young person / family buy and manage the services themselves. This is audited once a year to provide evidence that the money was used to meet the child's needs.
- Through a council managed budget  
A notional amount of money is allocated which the council's personal budget officers use to commission services on the child's behalf up to the value of the budget.
- Through using Council provided services.

Haringey's Family Link Scheme has a number of carers who provide a range of both day and overnight stays usually in the carers home.

- Through a mixture of the above.

Parents may appeal the Panel's decision in writing to [IASP@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:IASP@haringey.gov.uk) stating why they do not agree with the outcome and by providing additional information for Panel to consider.

Appeals will need to be submitted within 6 weeks of being informed of the panel decision in order to be considered.

The Personal Budget is reviewed every year.

More information can be found on Haringey's Local Offer or can be requested by emailing [personalbudget@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:personalbudget@haringey.gov.uk)

If you require and further information about any of the services, please download a referral form from <http://www.haringey.gov.uk/children-and-families/childrens-social-care/child-protection> or make a referral by contacting 020 8489 4470.



