

Eligibility criteria

Milton Keynes City Council is committed to delivering the highest quality services for children and young people with disabilities and providing their families with the necessary support they require.

We strive to ensure that all children and young people are safe, content, learning and thriving, and in order to achieve this goal we need to match the individual with the service that is best suited to them.

In all of our work with children and young people, from referral to assessment and beyond, not only do we always take our statutory duty very seriously, but the best interest of the child and or young person is central to our decision making.

This document sets out the eligibility criteria which is to be used for children and young people to benefit from the support and services of the Children with Disabilities team within Milton Keynes City Council.

It is important to note, however, that should a child or young person's needs fall outside the eligibility criteria for this service, it may be possible for them to meet the criteria of another service within the council or from external providers so that they may still receive the support they need at the right time.

In creating this document, the Local Authority has considered the relevant legislation and guidance, such as the Equality Act 2010, The Care Act 2014, Children and Social Work Act 2017 and the Children Act 1989

Assessment Criteria

The CWD Team will carry out an assessment where the child has:

- A substantial/severe learning disability
- A long term or permanent physical disability which seriously limits activities of daily life.
- A chronic or life threatening/life limiting illness.
- A profound loss of hearing that significantly affects the child's educational and social development and requires substantial, or very substantial support.
- A non-correctable loss of vision, whether it's complete blindness or partial vision loss that significantly affects the child's educational and social development.
- A substantial developmental delay, where there is evidence that the child's activities, physical, social or educational are seriously limited.
- A diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), where the ASD affects the child's developmental progress significantly, i.e. where the child requires substantial or very substantial support and/or is educated at a specialist school. A diagnosis is not essential; however independent verification of the presentation of the child will be required.
- An Education, Health and Care Plan which requires significant support within the school/college environment and the child would not be able to attend without social care involvement.
- Specialist pre-school intervention through the MKCC SEND inclusion team.
- Multiple disabilities/difficulties. Where a child has a combination of disabilities that individually may not be regarded as severe.

The CWD team will not routinely work with:

- A child with a medical condition which is not permanent or severe.
- A child with social, emotional, and behavioural, mental health or wellbeing difficulties
- A child with ASD or ADHD, where there is no significant impact on the child's developmental progress as a direct result of the ASD, or ADHD.

Where a child has disabilities that appear to meet the threshold for intervention by CWD, the child and family will be offered an assessment under section 17 Children Act (1989) to determine whether the criteria for CWD are met and whether the services offered by CWD are appropriate for this child and family. This assessment will either be carried out by the Short Breaks service or the Children with Disabilities Team.

Please note; the eligibility criteria must be met in order to receive paid services. The eligibility criteria will be applied, and it is only once this is met that a personal budget will be assessed and presented to the resource allocation panel that makes the decision on financial care packages. Where a child does not meet the criteria for services from CWD, the parents will receive advice and information about what services may be more appropriate.

Threshold Criteria for Children with Disabilities Team

Disability Category	Meets Threshold for specialist Services		Need met through universal provision & Early Help	
	Diagnosed Profound Impairment	Diagnosed Severe Impairment	Diagnosed Moderate Impairment	Diagnosed Mild Impairment
Learning	Has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). Attends a Special School for children with severe learning difficulties	Has an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP). Attends a Special School for children with moderate/severe learning disabilities or has a severe learning disability and attends a mainstream school receiving a minimum of 30 hours 1:1 support a week	Has an EHCP Attends a mainstream school with limited support.	Does not have an EHCP
Mobility	Unable to walk. Totally dependent on others or equipment for mobility. Wheelchair user.	Unable to walk without aids or assistance. Able to manoeuvre self some of the time. May be able to stand or transfer with support.	Able to walk, but occasionally requires aids or assistance.	Able to walk/move independently, but with some limitation of function. May have poor co-ordination of movement.
Health	Health needs prevent access to social and educational activities. Suffers from a life limiting illness or is receiving palliative care.	Frequent or daily interruption of normal tasks. Significant interference with development and / or learning.	Intermittent but regular limitations on ability to perform everyday tasks. The child's development or learning may be affected.	Known health condition, which is under control and only occasionally interfering with everyday activities in a minor way.

Vision	Mobility restricted without special provision. Requires education by non-sighted method. Eligible for registration as blind.	Unable to read large print without assistance or aids. Severe visual field defect with impaired visual acuity. Eligible for registration as blind or partially sighted.	Able to read print with simple aids or assistance. Defect of at least half visual field. May be eligible for registration as partially sighted.	Severe or profound problem with one eye. Defect of less than half visual field. Able to function independently.
Hearing	Hearing loss over 95 dB.	Hearing loss between 71 - 95 dB.	Hearing loss between 41 - 79 dB	Severe or profound hearing loss in one ear, between 20 - 40 dB.
Communication	Unable to communicate needs by any method. Unable to use communication aids without significant adult support	Limited or no verbal communication. Able to communicate basic needs without the use of language. Reliant on communication aids.	Delayed or disordered communication, including language disorders. Speech supplemented by another method of communication,	Mild delay of language development
Personal Care	Total assistance required for bathing, dressing, toileting and eating	Assistance required for bathing, toileting, dressing or eating	Some supervision or assistance required for bathing, dressing, toileting or eating	Occasional difficulties meeting own self-care needs.
Consciousness	Comatose. Intractable seizures, in frequent succession.	Regular seizures daily with significant impact on the child's learning or development	Seizures day or night on a regular basis, usually once per week.	Occasional daytime seizure (up to one per month).
Behaviour & Social Integration	Displays challenging behaviours that impact on all aspects of the child's functioning because of the profound nature of their health or learning condition.	The challenging behaviours are impacting on key aspects of the child's functioning. Specialist provision is required for the	The frequency or severity of the behaviours requires some specialist advice or provision.	Behaviours are occasionally difficult to manage. Special provision not required when managing the behaviour.

		child to function socially or within the family group.		
Safety and Supervision	Needs constant supervision both day and night. No ability to perceive danger to self or others.	Needs constant supervision during the day. Would place themselves or others at serious risk without supervision.	Requires supervision to perform daily tasks. Requires supervision significantly greater than that expected for children of the same age. Limited perception of danger to self or others	On occasion, requires more supervision than other children of the same age.

Children aged under 5 years old

	Meets Threshold for specialist Services		Need met through universal provision & Early Help	
Disability Category	Diagnosed Profound Impairment	Diagnosed Severe Impairment	Diagnosed Moderate Impairment	Diagnosed Mild Impairment
Children under age of 5 years	Child requires significantly greater care and attention because of the profound nature of their health or learning condition. E.g. without full-time 1:1 support, without which they would be at risk of serious harm because of the profound nature of their health or learning need Significant failure to reach developmental milestones.	Child is not meeting developmental milestones across a range of domains and is functioning at least 50% below of what is expected of their chronological age range.	Child is not meeting development milestones and is functioning at least 25% below of what is expected of their chronological age range.	Child is functioning slightly behind the level expected for age.

