

Appendix 2

Eligibility and short breaks for disabled children and young people

Identifying disabled children and young people to be supported with short breaks funding through Disabled Children's Early Help Team.

Disabled children have the same rights as other children. We want to be sure that they grow up with the right support that will give them the same opportunities as other children, including accessing universal services and being able to lead fulfilling lives.

There is a range of funding and support available to help this to happen. Funding is set aside from Children Act budgets to support disabled children as well as government funding for Cambridgeshire to implement the short breaks duty outlined in the Breaks For Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011.

This funding is available for disabled children who have particular needs. These needs fit within the definition of disability in the Children Act 1989.

The working description of disability that is applied is:

The needs of the disabled child or young person are beyond those of a non-disabled child of the same age and means they are likely to require lifelong support in the future from statutory services.

If a child's needs do not meet these criteria we will always offer advice. If we cannot provide direct support we will tell parents about other organisations that may be able to help.

Eligibility criteria agreed by Cambridgeshire County Council

On 21 April 2009, the Cabinet of Cambridgeshire County Council agreed that there would be several ways that disabled children and their families could receive support as detailed on following page.

Appendix 2 continued

This support may be identified through a social care assessment. In some instances, however, support may be offered through self-assessment because of other services a child may receive.

1. The Local Social Care short breaks offer

- 1.1 From the Early Intervention Grant, funding is available to enable children who are pupils in Cambridgeshire special schools to access after school support.
- 1.2 For a child or young person who has high rate Disability Living Allowance (DLA) for care there is an indicative personal budget of up to £2,000, if they are not already receiving short breaks support from social care, early years, after school access funding, or NHS. High rate DLA will remain in place for children aged up to 16. Young people over 16 will transfer to Personal Independence Payments (subject to eligibility after a medical assessment). The local short breaks offer will be for those with Enhanced Rate Daily Living Activities.

**Contact the Disabled Children's Early Help Team to find out more on
01480 379800 or email dceh@cambridgeshire.gov.uk**

Appendix 2 continued

2. Support through assessment

Under the definition of disabled children in the Children Act 1989, all disabled children are children 'in need' and are entitled to an initial assessment. If on assessment the child or young person's disability is likely to lead to lifelong support from statutory social care services, early help and social care funding support will be given as follows:

- 2.1 If assessment identifies need at level 2 or more on the needs grid below Early Help funding support will be offered for the local social care short break offer.
- 2.2 If assessment identifies need at levels 3 or 4 on the needs grid below social care support will be offered.

Level	General position	Disabled child's needs	Sibling's needs	Parent's / carer's needs
1	Child requires support to access services to broaden experiences and/or prevent build up of stress in family.	Child's level of need limits their participation in community activities and their development would benefit from additional social and leisure activities.	Child's needs are restricting sibling's opportunities.	Child's needs are impacting on parent's personal or social lives.
2	Child requires services to prevent impairment of health or development and/or alleviate stress in the family which may lead to risk in 3 or 4.	Child's level of need results in them being unable to participate in community activities which increases impairment.	Child's needs significantly restrict sibling's personal or social lives.	Parents need to provide significant care to other dependants who would otherwise be at risk OR child's needs are significantly impacting on parent's personal or social lives.
3		Child very vulnerable to risk of significant impairment of health or development OR the need for long term accommodation.	Child's level of need results in lifelong impact with likely lifetime support from statutory social care services.	Child's needs are impacting on well being and development of siblings.
4	Services required to prevent immediate risk of significant impairment which might directly affect child's growth, development, physical or mental well being OR to prevent the need for long term accommodation.	Child's essential care or medical needs or need for emotional development and stimulation cannot be met.	Sibling's essential needs cannot be met because of disabled child's needs.	Neither child's nor parent's essential needs are being met.

There is a range of services that can be made available to meet the assessed needs. The support that is offered, however, should address the needs identified in the assessment. It is also recognised that needs change over time for disabled children and their families. These needs will be considered in reviews and re-assessments as appropriate but families may also wish to ask for a new assessment if their circumstances change.

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This eligibility will be applied consistently and any substantive changes will be subject to the agreement of elected members of Cambridgeshire County Council.

Appendix 2 continued

How to get support through a social care assessment

In order to determine what your needs are we carry out an assessment. Disabled children are by definition 'Children in Need' and entitled to an assessment, whether or not they meet the threshold for services as defined within the eligibility criteria used by Cambridgeshire. Additionally, their parents and carers are entitled to a carer's assessment. When we assess the needs of disabled children and young people we take into account the needs of their parents and other children in their immediate family.

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/local-offer/local-offer-care-and-family-support/disabled-children-s-social-care/assessments-and-how-resources-are-allocated/

The assessment we use should take no more than 45 working days.

A member of staff from Children's Social Care will come and meet you and your family. We will ask your permission to talk to other people who know you and your family's circumstances. The information we gather is used to write a report which is the assessment. This assessment will be applied to the needs grid which helps us decide what level of support a family can be allocated.

We assess children as 'Children in Need' and 'Children in Need of Protection'. It is only when the assessment is completed that we can make any decision as to the type of service or support we can offer. We will always try to work in partnership with you to ensure we gather the most accurate information to complete the assessment.

If a child's needs do not meet these criteria, we will always offer advice. If we cannot provide support we will tell parents about other organisations that may be able to help.

Our assessment process is based on the 'framework for the assessment of children in need and their families'. For more details on the assessment process the Cambridgeshire Local Safeguarding Children Board has produced an information leaflet Assessments: A Guide For Parents. http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/lscb/download/downloads/id/78/assessments_-_a_guide_for_parents