Disability Social Care

Information for families, and carers about our role and the support we provide

For disabled children and young people up to the age of 18 who may need lifelong support from social care

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/disabledchildren
The role of Disability Social Care’

We are responsible for assessing the needs of disabled children and young people. For those who meet the eligibility criteria for services, we can provide:

- the opportunity for children and families to have a short break
- support for the child to access their community
- support and training for the child to develop independence skills appropriate to their age
- support in meeting a young person's personal care needs appropriate to their age

Our aim is always to encourage and support the use of inclusive activities and services that are available to all and to support your child to become as independent as possible.

Three teams make up Children’s Disability Social Care

- Disabled Children’s Social Work Teams
- Disabled Children’s Social Work units
- Disabled Children’s Early Help Team

For detailed information on our range of services and eligibility criteria, please visit www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/disabledchildren

Preparing for and Moving to Adult Social Care

Some of the young people we support may continue to need social care support once they become adults. We will work together with the Young Adults Social Care Team, families and young people in advance of this to ensure that support, for those eligible, is assessed, planned and in place to ensure a seamless transition.

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/moving-to-adult-social-care/
Teams and units

**Disabled Children’s Social Work Teams**

Disabled Children’s Social Work Teams work with children and young people who meet our eligibility criteria. They assess needs and provide social work support and care management.

The team will:

- work closely with you, your child and relevant others
- agree a personalised budget and support you in making a plan showing how you are going to spend the budget to meet agreed social care needs
- follow statutory child in need processes which means that they have to visit your child every 12 weeks; review your child's needs every six months and update the assessment annually or more often if your child's needs change
- work in partnership with health, education and other professionals as appropriate who also share responsibility to meet your child’s needs

Who’s who in Disabled Children’s Social Work Teams

- There are two teams. One is based in Cambridge City (South) and the other in Wisbech (North)
- Disabled Children’s Teams are made up of qualified social workers
- Your child’s social worker will be your main point of contact
- Each team has a manager, a senior social worker, a team coordinator and a business support assistant who will be able to help you when your social worker is not available by providing information and answering queries

**Disabled Children’s Social Work units**

The units support families and children with the most complex needs.

The unit will:

- work closely with you, your child and relevant others
- agree a social care support plan following an assessment
- provide intensive social work support
- offer you the option of a personalised budget to meet the agreed social care needs of your child
- follow statutory child in need processes. This means that they will visit you and your child every six weeks; review your child's needs every 12 weeks, and complete a reassessment when your child's needs change, or at least every year
- work in partnership with health, education and other professionals as appropriate who also share responsibility to meet your child's needs

Who’s who in the units

- There are two units. One is based in Cambridge (South) and the other in Wisbech (North)
- Each unit has:
  - a unit coordinator who will very often be your first point of contact and be able to provide information and answer your queries
  - A consultant social worker, a senior social worker and two social workers
  - a part-time clinician who will work with some families alongside the social workers

**Support for D/deaf children**

We work closely with our colleagues in the Sensory Support Team 0-25 years to ensure that each child's hearing needs are met. They can provide specialist advice on all aspects of hearing loss, language acquisition and communication and can communicate using a variety of methods including British Sign Language.

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk//children-hearing-impairment
Disabled Children’s Early Help Team
The Disabled Children’s Early Help Team enables disabled children and young people to develop the skills to Prepare for Adulthood, to access community activities, to increase independence skills and to enable parents/carers to have a short break. This is achieved through an allocation of a Personal Budget.

The team will:
- agree a support plan and budget with you
- ensure that you have all of the information you need and that arrangements are in place for you to manage the money on behalf of your child
- provide information about activities and short breaks
- look to support young people age 16+ to access volunteering or work experience opportunities

Disabled Children’s Early Help Team work with disabled children and young people who have either:
- completed a self-assessment because they receive high rate Disability Living Allowance (DLA) care component or enhanced rate Personal Independence Payment (PIP)
- had a social work assessment that indicates they are eligible for Early Help or Early Help Plus funding (social work manager oversight is available to young people and their families within the Early Help Plus offer)
- had a social work assessment which concludes the child or young person is eligible for social work support but there are no current social work tasks to be completed. The parent/carer and social worker agree that the child's needs can be best met via the Disabled Children’s Early Help Team

Who’s who in Disabled Children’s Early Help Team
- There is one team that covers the whole county
- Early Help Co-ordinators who work directly with the families

Moving between the teams
You and your child will only be in contact with one of the teams or units at any one time.

It is normal for your child to move between the teams/units if their or your family's needs change. Any moves will be discussed with you and you will be advised of the contact details of your new social worker (or Early Help Co-ordinator) and their manager. Where appropriate a joint home visit will be made with your old and new social care workers.

If your child does move to be supported by a new team the new team will take on all responsibilities, even if it is related to something in the past.