

Eligibility for Short Breaks and Social Care Support Children and Young People with Disabilities

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.

This funding is available for disabled children who have particular needs as detailed below.

Our working description of disability 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.

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 below.

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

1. Cambridgeshire's short breaks offer for children with disabilities through self-assessment

For a child or young person who has high rate Disability Living Allowance (DLA) Care Component 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 PIP for Daily Living Activities.

Contact for more information:

Disabled Children's Referral & Access Team

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Eligibility for Short Breaks and Social Care Support Children and Young People with Disabilities - 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 offered as follows:

- 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.
- 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	Early help funding	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		Early Help/Social care support	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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