



Sandwell
Children's Trust

Children with Disabilities

The services and support
available to children with
disabilities explained



The basic needs of disabled children are no different from those of any other child.

The Children Act 1989 places a duty on Children's Services to provide or co-ordinate the provision of services to all disabled children.

The overall provision of these services is a responsibility across all areas of Children's Services, and associated health and voluntary sector services. Parents have the right to request an assessment of their child with a disability under section 17 of the Children Act 1989.

Who are we?

Children with Disabilities Team is part of Sandwell Children's Trust based at The Wellman Building.

The team provides specialist services to children and young person that meet the criteria for a tier 3 service for support and intervention.

The team works with children and young persons whose disabilities are permanent and substantial and who are eligible

to be assessed for services.

The team works with

- Children with severe to profound learning difficulties;
- Children with long term illness;
- Children with severe and permanent physical and sensory disabilities;
- Diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Condition with an associated significant learning disability and where the condition severely affects day to day functioning.

The Children with Disabilities Team undertakes an assessment based on the criteria above. An assessment can also be undertaken by the following social care teams if the children do not fit in Children with Disabilities Team criteria:

- Early Help and Community Operations Group (COG);
- Safeguarding and Assessment Teams;
- Care Management Teams;
- Child in Care (LAC) Teams.

What services do we provide?

- Assessment of Need in conjunction with Health, Education and other agencies (voluntary and statutory)
- Service provision to Children is based on the assessment of their individual needs which may include support at home, in the community or overnights. The support can be via an Agency or Direct Payments.
- The support services that may be included in a support package for a disabled child and his/her family range from:
 - The provision of information on activities, clubs,

- playgroups and play schemes;
- The provision of advice and information about other organisations which may be able to offer help and support;
- Management of Short Breaks
- Child Protection and Court Work
- Placement and monitoring of children-Looked After by the Local Authority

For those families where it is agreed that they can have Short Breaks, this can be through a named provider or by Direct Payments.

They can be referred to other services for support and early help, for example, play schemes, leisure activities and voluntary organisations. Families are allocated dependent on need and the services they receive.



Transition Services (age 14-18) are also provided in collaboration with the Children with Disabilities Team and all young people in receipt of services will have an assessment at the age of 17 as a referral mechanism to assess the eligibility for Adult Social Care Services.

Where services are not required advice or referral to other services or signposting may be offered.

Services to Carers

Services can also be provided to carers where the child is disabled. Under the Carers (Recognition and Services) Act 1995 carers are entitled to an assessment of their own needs.

Any such assessment of carers should follow the guidance in the Assessment Framework.

Get in touch



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