

London Borough of Richmond upon Thames guide to the eligibility and level of services for disabled children (June 2012)

This is a public document to inform readers about the process for accessing social care support and services for disabled children and their families from the London Borough of Richmond.

Legal framework

The principal legislation for care support services to disabled children, young people and their families is the Children Act 1989. Under Section 17 of the Children Act disabled children are *children in need*. The Act places on local authorities two general duties to children in need: to safeguard and promote their welfare and to promote their upbringing by their families wherever possible.

The criteria in this document set out how London Borough of Richmond upon Thames interprets these two general duties to disabled children and young people living in its area.

Other legislation which is also relevant to the provision of these services includes the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act (1970), the Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000, the Carers (Equal Opportunities) Act 2004 and the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

Scope

These criteria govern eligibility to receive social care services under the above legislation to the following groups

1. Children and young people who are registered (or eligible for registration) on the Richmond Register of Children and Young People with Disabilities. (See Appendix A)
2. Immediate family and carers caring for children and young people in (1 above)

Eligibility for assessment

In order to qualify for an assessment from the Richmond Disabled Children's Team (DCT) a child and their family circumstances need to be considered against the criteria in Appendix A. Any family can request an assessment from the London Borough of Richmond Single Point of Access (SPA) team.

Children eligible to be on the Disability Register will be able to access support of some degree from the council. Richmond Disabled Children's Information Service and lead professionals will be focusing on supporting children and young people not eligible or registered in Band A or B of the register. Opportunities and support for these children and families are mostly provided by mainstream and universal services.

Children in Bands B and C eligible for assessment from the DCT may be offered a visit from a member of the DCT team to complete an assessment of the needs of the child and family. A separate carer's assessment will be offered. The outcome of the assessment may be services or support. Families can contact the DCS service to request an assessment.

Assessment

1. The provision of social care services will only be considered when supported by a current assessment of need, a recent review of an assessment or a Common Assessment Framework completed in partnership with health and education services.
2. Where consideration is being given to overnight breaks, it is required that a social worker has completed a core assessment under the Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need.
3. In an emergency, services can be considered while an assessment is underway.

Assessed needs and service levels

Following an assessment Social workers identify options that meet the needs of the family. The social worker discusses their recommendations with the family and incorporates their views into the assessment before asking them to sign it. The completed assessment is submitted to the social work manager and the Disabled Children's Services funding Panel for agreement.

These are guides to service levels

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| Mostly Lower on matrix | - Help to access mainstream activities with support
- Help to access holiday clubs with support |
| Mostly Medium on Matrix | Help to access range of out of school and holiday clubs possibly specialist support
- 1:1 support in the home or community
- Opportunity for occasional overnight stays |
| Mostly Higher on Matrix | - All of the above
- Regular planned overnight options
- Allocated social worker or family support worker |

All children eligible for assessment and support from the Disabled Children's Team will be able to apply to take part in Crofters activities.

Families will be offered Direct Payments as an option to meet the needs identified in the assessment. Direct Payments can be given along side other services.

Panels

4. Requests for services are dealt with by one of two panels. The complex cases requiring multi-agency funding are dealt with by the Joint funding panel. Children and Young people eligible for the Disabled Children's Service will be considered at the DCT panel.
5. Decisions of panels are subject to the agreement of the budget-holder.
6. Terms of reference and procedures for available on request.

Reviews

7. Care plans which identify the provision of services will be reviewed 6 monthly by the Social Worker or other lead professional. Any provision changes will be considered by the appropriate panel.

Appeals and complaints

8. If a young person or family is unhappy with the services or support their assessment identifies they are advised to contact the social worker or lead professional who wrote the assessment to discuss their concerns. If this does not resolve their issues they can direct them to the panel chair. If the chair concludes that the decision was based on incomplete or inaccurate information, or that proper account was not taken of the information available, the report author will be asked to review their recommendations and re-submit them to the panel. If the young person or parent is not satisfied with the response from the panel chair, further information about the formal complaints procedure will be made available. It can also be found at http://www.richmond.gov.uk/complaints_procedure

Notes

9. The eligibility for assessment from DCT is based primarily on the needs of the child due to their disability or health condition. Parenting capacity and environmental factors are considered but take on less significance in the decisions of allocation for this team, as support for these issues would fall into the remit of alternative service provision.

Appendix A Eligibility criteria for Registration on Disabled Children's Register London Borough of Richmond upon Thames

A child would be registerable if they meet a minimum of five categories in 'Band A'. Any two in 'Band A' and a single in 'Band B'. Any one in 'Band C'. Children the panel band as B and C are likely to be eligible for an assessment of their needs from the Disabled Children's Team. Additional personal care needs are not viewed as additional when the child is of an age when non-disabled children would also need that same level of personal care assistance.

Able for age	Band A	Band B	Band C
Fully mobile	Able to walk unassisted, but with difficulty or poor co-ordination.	Walks with aids or assistance. May use a wheelchair. Can transfer. independently	Full time wheelchair user.
No difficulties with motor skills	Some difficulties with play, writing or drawing e.g. tremor, unsteadiness, lack of fine motor control.	Able to play, write, type or draw, but only with a lot of difficulty or need for assistance.	Unable to use hands effectively.
Communicates appropriately	Delayed language development only.	Delayed/ disorganised verbal communication. Speech supported by alternate communication method. May have difficulty in processing information	Non-verbal. Uses communication other than words. Including PECS, Makaton, BSL or electronic aid.
No health or personal care issues	Known health condition, which is under control but occasionally interferes with everyday activities in a minor way.	Intermittent but regular limitations of normal activities, including self-care and personal hygiene. Interferes with opportunities for development or education.	Frequent or daily interruption of activities, including self care and personal hygiene. limits access to development or education.
Vision is good or corrected with glasses	Severe or profound impairment with one eye. Up to half visual field loss. Able to function independently.	Able to read print with simple aids or assistance. Impairment of at least half visual field. May be eligible for registration as partially sighted.	Mobility restricted without special provision. Unable to read large print without intensive educational assistance or sophisticated aids. Registerable as blind or partially sighted.
Hearing is OK	Severe or profound hearing loss in one ear. Hearing loss 20-40 dB	Hearing loss 41 plus and verbal	Hearing loss 41 plus and non-verbal or communicates full time using BSL.
Risk awareness and supervision needed is right for their age	Requires occasional supervision beyond that expected for their age. Poor sense of danger or risk of excitability.	Needs supervision to perform daily activities significantly greater than that expected for developmental age. Limited perception of danger to self or others.	Needs constant supervision during the day and night. Would place themselves or others at risk without supervision.
Behaviour and Social Integration is appropriate	Some mild, transient or frequent behaviour difficulties. Able to use local non-specialist services without specialist support. Able to sustain limited peer relationships and social integration with support	Displays behaviour severe or frequent enough to require some specialist advice or provision. Significant support required to achieve social integration. Does not initiate play. Only able to sustain peer relationships with support.	Long term behaviour difficulties make it difficult for the child to function appropriately most of the time. Dependence upon carer for social integration. Limited awareness of impact of behaviour upon others.
Functioning and learning OK	Overall functioning slightly below expected level for age.	Overall functioning around half expected level for age. Has a moderate learning disability	Overall functions significantly below expected level for age. Has a severe learning disability

Appendix B Eligibility criteria to inform eligibility for assessment from Disabled Children’s Team and service level decision making

This matrix helps identify the eligibility for services from the Disabled Children’s Team and likely level of service as part of an assessment of needs. Eligibility is a minimum of 5 categories in the ‘Lower’ band. The level of service is outlined in the guide on the eligibility and level of services.

Dimension	Lower	Medium	Higher
Mobility and motor skills	Able to walk unassisted, but with difficulty or poor co-ordination, difficulties with play, writing or drawing	Walks, with aids or assistance. May use a wheelchair and can transfer independently. Able to play, write, type or draw, but only with considerable difficulty or needing assistance.	Full time wheelchair user. Unable to use hands effectively.
Communication	Delayed language development only.	Delayed/disorganised verbal communication. Speech supported by alternate methods of communication or processing difficulties	Non-verbal. Uses communication other than words including PECS, Makaton, BSL or electronic aid.
Health and personal care	Known health condition, which is under control but occasionally interferes with everyday activities in a minor way.	Intermittent but regular limitations of normal activities, including self-care and personal hygiene. May interfere with opportunities for development or education.	Frequent or daily interruption of activities, including self care and personal hygiene. Significant limitations accessing development or education.
Vision/hearing	Severe or profound sensory impairment. Able to function independently.	Severe impairment of at least half visual field. May be eligible for registration as partially sighted. Hearing loss 41 plus and verbal	Mobility restricted without special provision. Registerable as blind or partially sighted. Hearing loss 41 plus and non-verbal
Safety and Supervision	Requires occasional supervision beyond that expected for their age. Poor sense of danger or risk of excitability.	Needs supervision to perform daily activities significantly greater than that expected for developmental age. Limited perception of danger to self or others.	Needs constant supervision during the day and night. Would place themselves or others at risk without supervision.
Behaviour and social integration	Mild, transient or frequent behaviour difficulties. Able to use local non-specialist universal services without specialist support. Able to sustain limited peer relationships and social integration with support	Displays behaviour severe or frequent enough to require some specialist advice or provision. Significant support required to achieve social integration. Does not initiate play Only able to sustain peer relationships with support.	Long term behaviour difficulties make it difficult for the child to function most of the time. Does not initiate play. Dependence upon carer for social integration. Limited awareness of impact of behaviour upon others.
Functioning and learning ability	Overall functioning slightly below expected level for age.	Overall functioning around half expected level for age. Has a moderate learning disability	Overall functions significantly below expected level for age. Has a severe learning disability
Parental capacity	Carers have high demands due to other caring responsibilities or being a single parent that make parenting for this child difficult	Carers have health problems/addictions, learning difficulties or other issues majorly affecting their capacity as carers. Parental unit not working well or is strained.	Carers have health problems/ addictions, learning difficulties or other issues majorly affecting their capacity as carers. Parental unit not working well or is strained.
Environmental factors	Environmental factors not of concern or in the process of being addressed appropriately	Affected by unsafe, inadequate or insecure housing, or has no support network, or is reliant on benefits or has a low income.	Effectd by Unsafe, inadequate or insecure housing, and has no support network, and is reliant on benefits or has a low income.