Eligibility criteria for the Disabled Children and Young People’s Service (0-25)

Brent Council’s Disabled Children and Young People’s Service supports children and young people from birth to 25 years old who have severe, permanent and substantial disabilities or complex, long-term health problems.

A ‘substantial’ disability is defined as a child or young person requiring significant support from another person, or equipment to carry out their basic functions such as personal or night time care, eating and participating in activities.

The purpose of the service is to:

- Support children and young people with disabilities and involve them and their families in planning services so they can enjoy different experiences, develop new skills and achieve their ambitions as they transition to adulthood.

There are eligibility criteria and an assessment process for accessing the Disabled Children and Young People’s Service to help ensure that support is given to those children and young people who need it most.

Eligibility criteria

- The child or young person lives in Brent
- They are aged between 0 – 18, or up to 25 if in full-time education
- The child or young person has permanent complex health and developmental needs, or
- a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) with an associated severe learning disability, or
- sensory disabilities, or
- a severe physical disability, or
- a life limiting condition.

These conditions have a negative effect on child or young person’s ability to do normal daily activities and the child or young person requires significant support.
Assessment

If your child meets the eligibility criteria, our Disabled Children and Young People’s Service will carry out an assessment of their needs to establish what support they may require. It is very likely that our teams will already know families of children and young people with the most substantial needs.

The child and family assessment will involve talking to you and your child. With your permission, we will also liaise closely with other professionals such as teachers, health visitors and doctors. Your needs, as parents and carers, will also be considered. Any package of support will focus on the individual child and the particular circumstances of each family.

Support you may receive

If the child or young person is eligible to receive support, we will work with you to help them access the most suitable provision. This might include:

Specialist services: These are for children and young people who have been assessed as having high-level needs that require specialist provision. They include short breaks provision, specialist community nursing and care at home.

Targeted services: These are aimed at children and young people who have needs that require more support than universal services can provide. They include portage and specialist educational and sports provision.

If the child or young person is not eligible to receive specialist or targeted services, we will help you to access universal services, including NHS provision, children’s centres, play schemes and sports activities. Universal services (sometimes also referred to as mainstream services) are those that are available to all children and their families without the need for a referral or assessment.

For full details of our range of universal, targeted and specialist services please read our Leisure and Short Breaks Statement at www.brent.gov.uk/media/164107477927-short-breaks-statement-may-2018.pdf

Making a referral to our team

Parents and carers can make a referral to the Disabled Children’s Team by contacting Brent’s Family Front Door on 020 8937 4300. The assessment should then take no longer than 45 days to complete.

Referrals by professionals should be made using an Early Help Assessment (EHA). For more information visit www.brent.gov.uk/services-for-residents/children-and-family-support/early-help-and-support-available/getting-an-early-help-assessment/
Complaints

If you’re unhappy about the decision in relation to the outcome of your assessment, you should first discuss this with your social worker. If the matter remains unresolved, you have the right to make a formal complaint through the council’s complaints process. We will provide you with a copy of our leaflet or you can visit www.brent.gov.uk/complaints

Useful contacts

- Brent Family Front Door 020 8937 4300 family.frontdoor@brent.gov.uk
- Brent SEND Information, Advice and Support Service 020 8937 3434 sendias@brent.gov.uk
- Brent Parent Carer Forum 0114 213 4912 bpcfadmin@wspld.org
- Brent Children and Families Information Service (CFIS) 0208 937 3010 cfis@brent.gov.uk
- Brent Carers Centre 020 3802 7070 email@brentcarerscentre.org.uk