Can your child be referred to Disabled Children’s Services?

Disabled Children’s Services (DCS) provides support for disabled children and young people where their disability has a substantial and long term effect on their ability to carry out day-to-day activities.

And

There are significant difficulties in meeting needs within their family, broader support networks or through local universal provision.

Whilst eligibility decisions are based on individual need and professional judgement, including to what extent the impairment affects their lives and the lives of those who live with and care for them, it is likely that a disabled child or young person will fit into one or more of the following definitions:

- A significant, permanent and enduring physical disability
- A severe and enduring communication disorder
- Autism with a significant global development delay and may have challenging behaviour
- A significant sensory impairment
Disabled Children’s Services teams may also work with young people aged 18 and up to 25 years if they still have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). You can find out more on the Preparing for Adulthood pages in the Local Offer area of the North Yorkshire County Council Website: [www.northyorks.gov.uk/localoffer](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/localoffer) or the young persons version [www.northyorks.gov.uk/yplocaloffer](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/yplocaloffer)

What can DCS do to help?

**Care and short breaks services**

Many parents and carers need a regular break from their caring role. Short breaks can also help children and young people to meet others, do activities they enjoy and increase their independence. We can arrange support with registered private and voluntary sector organisations. Some families prefer to have a direct payment and employ care staff.

Children who need lower levels of support may be eligible for a modest grant to purchase short breaks. For information about this visit: [http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/article/26344/Short-breaks-for-disabled-children-and-young-people](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/article/26344/Short-breaks-for-disabled-children-and-young-people) and download the Short Breaks Statement. There is also information about what else is available on the Local Offer area of the North Yorkshire County Council website: [www.northyorks.gov.uk/localoffer](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/localoffer)

**Typical care services might include:**

- Day care, in school holidays, after school or at weekends
- Overnight or weekend stays with short break carers or a residential unit
- Specialist support to help a child take part in activities
- Support workers to care for your child in your own home
The type and level of care service you will be offered depends on the individual needs of your child and your family. You will decide on your own support plan so you will have choice and control over this.

**Advice and assistance**

We will do our best to advise you or we will find the best agency to do so. We work with health professionals, schools and other agencies.

**Support to parents and carers**

When a child or young person is assessed, parents and carers are offered a carer’s assessment to take into account these needs in the child’s plan.

**Full time care**

We aim to support families so that children can continue living at home. If children or young people can no longer live with their family we arrange for them to be looked after.

**Child protection**

Our social workers are trained in child protection. If a child is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm, we work with families and other agencies to reduce the risk of harm.

**How can I get support from Disabled Children’s Services?**

A child or young person can be referred to Disabled Children’s Services by a professional like a teacher or a doctor, or families can ring up and talk to staff in the Customer Resolution Centre at North Yorkshire County Council. They will advise you whether Disabled Children’s Services may be able to carry out an assessment of your needs.

You can contact the Customer Resolution Centre on **(01609) 780780** or visit [www.northyorks.gov.uk/generalenquiries](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/generalenquiries)
What happens next?
First we will visit you at home to make sure we fully understand what your child and your family need. This is called an **assessment of need** and is carried out by a social worker.

The social worker will look at:

- The additional care and support your child needs because of their disability.
- Care and support needs which can be met by the family and those which can’t.
- The circumstances of the family and what support is already available in your wider family and local community.
- The social worker will then assess what additional support is needed for your child to be cared for by their family.
- Families get a copy of the assessment.

If the assessment shows that you need additional support to help you care for your child we will use a **resource allocation system** (RAS). This will calculate an **indicative budget** which is a fair and transparent way to allocate a budget based on care needs, and how much support your family needs. You can find out more about how the RAS is calculated at [www.northyorks.gov.uk/dcs](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/dcs)

You will develop your own **Support Plan** which shows what care and support is needed and what it will cost. Families can have help from a social worker to write their plan. The advantages of this are:

- You have more choice and control over the support you get
- You decide for yourself what would be most help
- You can choose more creative solutions which suit you and your circumstances
Once the support plan has been agreed, the personal budget can be approved and care and support services can start.

**What if your needs change?**
Plans are reviewed regularly, and can be changed. If you have questions, problems with the service, or your circumstances change you can contact your social worker. If your need is urgent ask to speak to a duty social worker if your allocated worker is not available.

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**What is a Personal Budget?**

A Personal Budget is the amount it costs to pay for the care and support in your support plan. This can be arranged in the following ways:

- Disabled Children’s Services can arrange services for you using your personal budget. You do not need to manage this yourself.

- The personal budget is paid direct to you as a direct payment, and you arrange support and services yourself. This could be all or some of your personal budget. You can choose which elements you want to arrange yourself.

Please see the following page for a visual overview of how personal budgets work.
A guide to Disabled Children’s Services and personal budgets for care
Contact us

North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL7 8AD

Our Customer Resolution Centre is open Monday to Friday 8.00am - 5.30pm (closed weekends and bank holidays).
Tel: 01609 780 780
email: customer.services@northyorks.gov.uk
web: www.northyorks.gov.uk

If you would like this information in another language or format please ask us.