

Criteria for Allocation of a child or young person to a Social Worker in the Special Educational Needs (SEND) Children with Disabilities (CwD) Team

Where it might be considered that a child has a disability, the effects of the disability can be categorised according to the four levels: mild, moderate, severe and profound.

Mild	older child, some limitation present but able to function independently
	younger child functioning slightly behind the level expected for age

Moderate	older child where aids and/or assistance may be required to perform tasks
	younger child functioning around 2/3 the level expected for age

Severe	older child who is unable to perform tasks without aids and assistance most of the time
	younger child functioning around 1/2 the level expected for age

Profound	Older child completely dependent upon carer to perform tasks
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(Reference: 'Disability in Childhood – Towards Nationally Useful Definitions', report of the working group convened by the British Association for Community Child Health and the Department of Health, December 1994).

Within Children and Young Peoples Social Care Services, assessing and meeting the needs of those children with **mild and moderate** levels of disability falls within the responsibilities of Children's Social Care Teams. This is in order to maximise the social inclusion of children and young people, avoid labelling and also avoids unnecessary dependence upon specialist services.

For children and young people with difficulties associated with their **mental health**, services are provided by the Child and Adolescent Mental Health service (CAMHS) which is a partnership between social work and health services.

Where children have disabilities which are considered to be severe or profound, it is recognised that a specialist service is likely to be required and these children and young people should be referred to the SEND CwD Teams.

The decision around whether a child or young person meets the criteria for allocation to CwD is the responsibility of CwD Managers. In coming to this decision, the Statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN) or Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and Education Psychology advice and assessments would be considered.

Discussion around the CwD criteria and whether a child or young person meets the criteria for allocation to CwD should take place between Children's Social Care and CwD managers.

Lancashire's Local Offer

The SEND local offer brings together information, advice and support available to children and young people aged 0-25 and their families:

<http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities.aspx>

The Local Offer should be considered when completing a Children and Families assessment in respect of a child or young person with special educational needs and disabilities.

POWAR

POWAR is Lancashire County Council's participation council group for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

<http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/youthzone/need-to-know/powar-participation-group.aspx>