

Social Care

One Minute Guide

What is Disabled Children's Social Care?

Disabled Children's Social Care (DCSC) is a service focused on supporting families who are caring for a child aged 0-18 with substantial, complex and critical needs.

Who can access support from DCSC?

Disabled children are by definition 'Children in Need' (S17, Children Act 1989). This means that all families with a disabled child can request an assessment to consider the needs of that child.

DCSC sets a threshold for access to its service. These thresholds are necessary because services have to be prioritised for those with highest levels of need coming from the fact that they have a disability.

Children aged 0-18 who meet the threshold are those that have been assessed as being in one of the following categories:

- *Substantial/Complex*: Requiring a specialist response
- *Critical*: There will be concern that the child is suffering or at risk of suffering significant harm or impairment.

How are a child's needs assessed?

For a child requiring a higher level of social care, a family assessment will be carried out by a Social Worker. This will involve:

- Information gathering about the child and their family;
- An analysis of the needs and circumstances of the child;
- Identification of what help is needed, (if any);
- A plan which outlines what services will be provided;
- Determining how the plan will meet the needs;
- Deciding who has responsibility for delivering the plan and a timetable for review.

In addition to this, the assessment will promote the fact that disabled children live within a family environment and the issues of parent/carers responsibilities are important.



What services can you provide?

For children aged 0-18 who meet the eligibility threshold, the kinds of services we can provide are:

Home Support – provided by organisations that have a contract with Birmingham Children’s Trust and can include help with washing and dressing, support with developing social skills, providing outdoor activities and befriending services in the community.

Direct Payments – money we can give you to help you buy the care and support you need for your child, instead of us arranging the services for you. This gives you choice and control over your child’s plan.

Short Break Fostering Provision – working with a company called Core Assets (an independent childcare organisation) and the Trust’s fostering and adoption service to provide short term and permanent fostering arrangements within the home of an experienced foster carer.

Children’s Residential Homes – three OFSTED registered children’s homes that can offer short breaks and overnight care and one that can offer permanency for children that cannot be cared for at home.

Preparation for Adulthood – we have an approach which promotes the identification of 14-18 year olds who are “likely” to qualify for the Adult Social Care Service after they turn 18, and we liaise with Adultcare regarding their needs, throughout that period.

Get in touch

Birmingham Children’s Trust
1 Lancaster Circus, PO BOX 15887
Birmingham , B2 2RZ

t: 0121 303 1888

f: 0121 303 3106

e: cass@birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk

w: www.birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk/dcsc

