

## **SUPPORT AND SHORT BREAKS FOR DISABLED CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

### **IDENTIFYING DISABLED CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE SUPPORTED THROUGH SOCIAL CARE AND SHORT BREAK FUNDING**

Disabled children have the same rights as other children. We want to be sure that they grow up with the right support that will give them the same opportunities as other children, including accessing universal services and able to lead fulfilling lives.

There is a range of available funding and support to help this to happen. This document describes the funding that is set aside from Children Act budgets to support disabled children as well as the funding the government has recently given Cambridgeshire to implement the Short Break Duty outlined in the Breaks For Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011. The specific short break funding comes from the Government Early Intervention Grant and replaces the previous Aiming High funding that was available between 2009 and 2011.

This funding is available for disabled children who have particular needs. These needs fit within the definition of disability in the Children Act 1989. It is important that the use of available funding addresses the needs of the priority groups previously identified in the Aiming High Short Breaks Implementation Guidance so that they are not disadvantaged in accessing short breaks.

#### **The working description of disability that is applied is:**

*The needs of the disabled child or young person are beyond those of a non-disabled child of the same age and means they are likely to require lifelong support in the future from statutory services.*

If a child's needs do not meet these criteria we will always offer advice. If we cannot provide support we will tell parents about other organisations that may be able to help.

### **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AGREED BY CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

On 21 April 2009, the Cabinet of Cambridgeshire County Council agreed that there would be several ways that disabled children and their families could

receive support. Specific government Aiming High for disabled Children funding available from 2009 to 2011 has been replaced by funding through the Early Intervention Grant and the arrangements for support currently remain the same.

This support may be through an assessment using the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) or Social Care Initial and Core Assessments. In some instances, however, support may be offered through self assessment because of other services a child may receive:

## **1. THE LOCAL SHORT BREAK OFFER**

- 1.1 From the Early Intervention Grant, funding is available to enable children who are pupils in Cambridgeshire Special Schools to access after school support.
- 1.2 For a child or young person who has High Level Disability Living Allowance (DLA) for care there is a minimum entitlement of 100 hours of support each year if they are not already receiving short break support from Social Care, Early Years or After School Access funding, or NHS Cambridgeshire. This offer has now been converted to an indicative personal budget of up to £2,000 to reflect the implementation of Self Directed Support for disabled children. Each year begins on April 1 and the entitlement will be offered pro rata for the remaining period of the year. Whilst this support is an entitlement, families with a disabled child may choose to ask for an assessment if they wish their broader needs to be considered or believe they require a greater level of support. (It is acknowledged that not all children who could be eligible for High Level DLA do access this support and it is important that they and their families can request support through assessment.)

## **2. SUPPORT THROUGH ASSESSMENT**

Under the definition of disabled children in the Children Act 1989, all disabled children are children 'in need' and are entitled to an initial assessment. Following assessment, Short Break and Social Care funding support will be given as follows:

- 2.1 If assessment identifies need at level 2 or more on the needs grid in this guidance Short Break funding support will be offered.
- 2.2 If assessment identifies need at levels 3 or 4 on the needs grid Social Care support will be offered.

There is a range of services that can be made available to meet the assessed needs. The support that is offered, however, should address the needs identified in the assessment. It is also recognised that needs change over time for disabled children and their families. These needs will be considered in reviews and re-assessments as appropriate but families may also wish to ask for a new assessment if their circumstances change.

**This eligibility will be applied consistently and any substantive changes will be subject to the agreement of the Cabinet of Cambridgeshire County Council.**

## **HOW TO GET SUPPORT THROUGH A SOCIAL CARE ASSESSMENT**

In order to determine what your needs are we carry out an assessment. Disabled children are by definition 'Children in Need' and entitled to an assessment, whether or not they meet the threshold for services as defined within the eligibility criteria used by Cambridgeshire. Additionally, their parents and carers are entitled to a carer's assessment. When we assess the needs of disabled children and young people we take into account the needs of their parents and other children in their immediate family.

Our assessment process is based on "The framework for the assessment of children in need and their families". For more details on the assessment process the Cambridgeshire Local Safeguarding Children Board has produced an information leaflet 'Assessments: A Guide For Parents'. (<http://www.cambslscb.org.uk/leaflets/2007/assessments%20LSCB6.pdf>)

Our aim is that an initial assessment will be completed within seven working days and a core assessment, which is more complex and detailed, completed in 35 working days.

We assess children as 'Children in Need' and 'Children in Need of Protection'. It is only when the assessment is completed that we can make any decision as to the type of service or support we can offer. We will always try to work in partnership with you to ensure we gather the most accurate information to complete the assessment.

A member of staff from Children's Social Care will come and meet you and your family. We will ask your permission to talk to other people who know you and your family's circumstances. The information we gather is used to write a report which is the assessment. This assessment will be applied to the needs grid which helps us decide what level of support a family can be allocated.

If a child's needs do not meet this criteria, we will always offer advice. If we cannot provide support we will tell parents about other organisations that may be able to help.

<b>APPENDIX 1 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE SUPPORT AND ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR DISABLED CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE</b>				
<b>Needs (Social, emotional, developmental, educational, care and medical)</b>	<b>General Position</b>	<b>Disabled child's needs</b>	<b>Siblings needs</b>	<b>Parents / Carers needs</b>
<b>0</b>	Child leading life as normally as possible and needs easily met by family		Child's needs do not significantly impact on siblings opportunities	Child's needs do not significantly impact on parents personal or social lives
<b>1</b>	Child requires support to access services to broaden experiences and/or prevent build up of stress in family	Child's level of needs limit their participation in community activities and their development would benefit from additional social and leisure activities	Child's needs are restricting siblings opportunities	Child's needs are impacting on parents personal or social lives
<b>2</b>	Child requires services to prevent impairment of health or development and/or alleviate stress in the family which may lead to risk in 3 or 4.	Child's level of needs result in them being unable to participate in community activities which increases impairment.	Child's needs significantly restrict siblings personal or social lives	Parents need to provide significant care to other dependants who would otherwise be at risk OR child's needs are significantly impacting on parents personal or social lives
<b>3</b>	Child very vulnerable to risk of significant impairment of health or development OR the need for long term accommodation	Child's level of need results in lifelong impact with likely lifetime support from statutory social care services	Child's needs are impacting on well being and development of siblings	Child's needs met but at significant cost to their own physical or mental health OR serious risk of family breakdown
<b>4</b>	Services required to prevent immediate risk of significant impairment which might directly affect child's growth, development, physical or mental well being. OR to prevent the need for long term accommodation	Child's essential care or medical needs or need for emotional development and stimulation cannot be met.	Siblings' essential needs cannot be met because of disabled child's needs.	Neither child's nor parents' essential needs are being met.