

All Ages Disability Service (AAD) 0-25 Eligibility Criteria

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1. Criteria:

Eligibility criteria for Southwark All Age Disability Service (AAD) Service (0-25) Southwark Council. The criteria for the AAD Social Care Team establishes the threshold at which a child with a disability will be offered a specialist social care assessment. The AAD Team will offer an assessment where the child has a disability which is severe and profound and long lasting or permanent, or has a life limiting or life threatening condition.

A 'severe and profound' disability may be indicated where a child or young person requires significant additional support from another person, or equipment to carry out their basic functions such as personal or night time care, eating and participating in activities. As an adult it is likely that they will continue to require this.

Severe and profound/substantial disabilities may include:

- Severe learning disabilities
- Severe physical disabilities
- Severe developmental delay in motor and or cognitive functioning
- Profound multiple disabilities
- Severe sensory impairment (registered blind and profoundly deaf)
- Complex and severe health problems that arise from the disability, that are life threatening, degenerative illness or organic disorder resulting in severe disability
- A diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Condition where the condition severely adversely affects day to day functioning.

- Learning disability where the condition severely affects day to day functioning
- Have a disability or physical impairment which is permanent assessed as substantial having a negative impact on their ability to their daily activities.

Conditions not usually supported by the AAD Team:

Not all children or young people with a disability will require or want a service from a specialist disability service. Some children and young people with additional needs can have them met within their families or from universal or dedicated services. Equally some children with a disability may only require support from health services. For example a child who needs support from speech and language and paediatric therapy. The criteria for referral and assessment from AAD Service will not generally be met by a child or young person with the following conditions (unless they have other conditions that meet the criteria as detailed above):

- Dyslexia
- Dyspraxia
- Autistic Spectrum Conditions including Asperger's Syndrome (unless severe/ profound adverse impact), ADHD, Emotional and Behavioural difficulties, Oppositional Defiance Disorder
- Mild physical disabilities
- Mild Learning disabilities
- Mild Global Developmental Delay
- Speech and Language difficulties
- Sensory disabilities only
- Controlled Epilepsy
- Mental Health Conditions that are stable.
- Specific Learning difficulties

Where specialist services are not required advice or referral to other services for assessment or support or signposting may be offered.

2. Referral process:

All new referrals will be processed through MASH, Southwark's Safeguarding Hub, as a single referral point. When a referral is received a decision will be made by the MASH manager about whether the primary reason for the referral relates to disability and appears to meet the AAD service criteria. If so a referral will be forwarded to the AAD duty Team Manager. A further decision will be made about whether this case appears suitable for allocation to the specialist disability team. Parents and carers can make a referral to the AAD Team by Contacting Southwark Family Front Door MASH on: Telephone: **02075251921** or Email: MASH@southwark.gov.uk

Once the case is referred to the AAD duty team, if it is agreed that the child or young person appears to meet the eligibility criteria a Social Care Children and Family assessment will be initiated and should be completed within 45 working days of the initial referral.

Internal referrals from other social work teams are discussed between the referring team and the AAD duty manager to establish putative eligibility, and may require a joint assessment. During the time of the assessment the responsibility for managing the case remains with the referring team until the disability assessment is completed and eligibility for AAD service is confirmed. If following the assessment eligibility is met the normal internal transfer process is followed and the case will be transferred to the AAD team and allocated to a worker.

Referrals of Looked After Children (LAC) about to leave care transitioning to adulthood:

A LAC identified as requiring adult support should be referred to the AAD team for a Care Act assessment. Generally this should be completed at 17 years old at which point it is likely to be possible to assess their future needs as an adult. The AAD pathway enables the Care Act assessment to be recorded for young people transitioning to adulthood at 17.5 years, and where eligible develop the subsequent support plan. However, this work should be initiated in advance of this date to ensure a 12 months period to plan an appropriate adult service and support the transition to adult services.

All relevant assessments, including mental capacity assessments, will be completed during this time and the Adult support plan will come into effect on the person's 18th birthday.

The young person will remain the responsibility of the LAC team, supported by the AAD Social Worker until their 18th birthday when the adult support plan commences and the case responsibility will transfer to AAD.

Referrals for young people 18-25 years with disabilities:

All referrals for young people 18-25 are referred directly to the AAD duty for a Care Act (CA) assessment to be completed within 28 days to establish their adult needs and CA eligibility. In order to access services from the AAD team as an adult the assessed needs will generally have to meet the CA 2014 eligibility criteria- please see the following link to Care Act regulations for details of the criteria <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2014/9780111124185>

Email: AADDuty@southwark.gov.uk Telephone: **0207 525 5372**

3. Assessment

All children who meet the criteria for the AAD service will receive a Child and Family assessment to identify their need for services. The Assessment will be carried out with the consent of the parent/carer in consultation with the family, using information from other involved professionals as appropriate.

It is the impact the disability has on daily living for the child and their immediate family that is a key part of the assessment. The assessment will be child focused. Additional specialist assessments will be commissioned as necessary from a variety of other services, such as OT and Speech and Language.

The assessment may identify that the child's needs arise due to disability, the parent's health and/ or disability, and/or that the child may be in need of protection from abuse or neglect. Due process will be followed in relation to child protection or child in need processes to ensure appropriate intervention.

The needs of parents and carers will also be considered and carers assessments undertaken with their consent. Any package of support will focus on the individual child/young person and the particular circumstances of each family.

4. Child Protection Cases / Children in Need

With new referrals (i.e. where the case is not open to AAD where the primary concern is child protection), MASH will follow the standard screening process to decide which team to refer onto for Child Protection enquiries and/or single assessment. In the event that criteria is met for AAD team as detailed at Paragraph1 above, the case will be transferred to AAD at the Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC) , with an AAD Team Manager being notified and invited to the ICPC meeting/or CIN meeting.

Where child protection concerns are raised on open child care cases within the AAD team, the investigation and section 47 assessment (see following link for section 47 information <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/41/section/47>) will be undertaken by the allocated social worker. All non-disabled children will be transferred at conference whether CP or step down to CIN to the appropriate team.

The AAD Team will undertake all Section 47 enquiries, assessments, manage child protection plans and undertake legal proceedings in respect of children who are already open cases. This is undertaken under the governance of Children's Services quality assurance who manage all child protection and legal planning meetings.

5. Services to Children and Young People with Disabilities:

If the child or young person is eligible to receive services from the AAD team, we will work with the individual and family to help them access the most suitable provision.

As a general principle, where it is appropriate and meets the needs of children and families universal or early help services should be identified and information provided about how to access this help to minimise the impact of disability and avoid the unnecessary segregation of children and young people with disabilities., Southwark also uses a strengths based approach where families and individuals are empowered to tap into the assets available to them in their family, network and community, to provide support without the need for formal social care services.

Where the assessment identifies that specialist services are required, these may be provided by health or voluntary agencies as well as the local authority. The assessment will identify and make recommendations for appropriate services or equipment that are required to meet the child /young person's needs.

The support services that may be included in a support package for a disabled child/young person and his/her family range from:

- The provision of information on activities, clubs, playgroups and play schemes
- The provision of advice and information about other organisations which may be able to offer help and support
- Support for the child in/outside the home
- Short breaks providing overnight care
- Support services using direct payments

When services have been agreed, they will be incorporated into a Child in Need Plan - or, where the child becomes Looked After, a Care Plan or Short Break Plan.

6. The Local Offer:

Southwark Local Offer www.localoffer.southwark.gov.uk provides information about what services are available in the borough for children and young people aged 0-25 who have special education needs and disabilities. The Local offer includes up-to-date information about opportunities and services that are available and is coordinated by the Southwark Information Advice and Support [SIAS] team.

7. Services to Carers

Services can also be provided to carers where the child is disabled. Under the Children Act (as amended by the Children and Family Act 2014 carers are entitled to an assessment of their needs as a parent carer. Other family members who provide care may also be entitled to an assessment under the Carers (Recognition and Services) Act 1995. These will be undertaken by the allocated Social Worker

8. Disability Register

The Children Act requires the local authority to keep a register of disabled children in its area. For the purposes of the Children Act a child is disabled if 'blind, deaf or dumb or suffers mental disorder of any kind or is substantially and permanently handicapped by illness or congenital deformity.' The register is held within the AAD Team. Parents are able, if they wish, to supply information about their child for inclusion on the register. The register is used to plan and develop services for children with disability and also to assist Adult Services with information on future service needs. The register can be accessed through Southwark's local offer site via the following link <https://localoffer.southwark.gov.uk/care/the-children-with-disabilities-register/>

9. Reviews

All CP (Child Protection), CIN (Child in Need) and LAC (Looked after Children) Plans will be reviewed in line with the statutory Practice Standards. All cases assessed as stable with an established support plan where there are no safeguarding or parenting concerns, will be reviewed annually.

Levels of Needs for Disabled Children:

This document is designed to provide a better understanding by parents and carers of the eligibility criteria for accessing a service from the All Age Disability Service (AAD). It also aims to explain the way in which the differing needs of children and young people with disabilities can be met, so that they may achieve the 'five outcomes of Every Child Matters (ECM); Be Healthy, Stay Safe, Enjoy & Achieve, Make a Positive Contribution & Achieve Economic Wellbeing.

LEVEL 1

UNIVERSAL NEEDS - All Children & Young People

The majority of children in Southwark who require services will receive them through universal provision within their local community. Most children's needs' (whether or not the child has a disability) will be met at this level.

Service Examples:

- School
- GP
- Health Visitor
- School nurse
- Children's centre
- Before and after school care
- Family Information Service at ask
- Extended Services

LEVEL 2: TARGETED/UNIVERSAL SERVICES

Children and Young People Needing ADDITIONAL HELP

Where a child does have a disability the Local Authority will have a duty to complete a proportionate assessment of their needs where this is requested or required. Some of these children and young people may have **ADDITIONAL NEEDS** and be identified as a child or young person who, without the support of additional services, will not meet desired outcomes. The response may come from a single service provider, consulting with or referring on to other service providers when required.

Illustrative Need

- Occasionally requires more supervision than children of the same age
- Limited perception of danger to self and others.
- With supervision can engage in personal care
- Some behavioural or management difficulties which may require additional advice or guidance
- General health problems
- Speech and language problems
- Meets access criteria for the Local offer

Service Examples

- Disabled Children Short breaks/Local Offer
- Speech & language therapy
- Community Child Health Service
- CAMHS (children and adolescent mental health services)

- EHCP (Education, Health and Care Plan)
- Early Help
- Parenting Support
- Parents Support advisors
- For additional information about the CAF process please see the MASH web site

LEVEL 3: TARGETED/SPECIALIST SERVICES SPECIALIST SUPPORT

Children at this level of need most likely have multiple needs and the assessment of these children will show that services at Level 1 and Level 2 are unable to fully address the full range of needs. To meet the needs of disabled children, young people and their families, we have to be as fair and as consistent as we can in assessing and allocating services. Therefore our judgements and decisions are based on assessment and take particular account of the following:

- a) The impact that caring for a disabled child or young person is having on the family as a whole.
- b) The possibility that the child or young person may require an alternative care arrangement or that there may be concerns as to the child's safety and/or welfare.

Key Factors in determining Needs at level 3 is:-

1. The impact that trying to meet the additional needs of a disabled child or young person is having on the family as a whole.
2. Likelihood of family breakdown resulting from the demands of the care, supervision, or behaviour of the child/young person.
3. The effect of disturbed nights on the carer and their family.
4. Impact that Moving & Handling has on the wellbeing of the carer
5. Health of the carer.
6. Number of children in the household their ages and needs.
7. Children with disabilities who have severe challenging behaviours which impact on all aspects of the child/young person's functioning or pose a risk to self or others.
8. It is apparent that the families own resources and/ or Universal and Targeted services are unable to provide the required level of support.
9. Children with disabilities who have recently been subject to a child protection plan, and who remain in need of ongoing specialist services.
10. Children/young people with disabilities who require support because of their mental health needs.

Needs at level 3 will require a Child and family assessment or assessment by another specialist service.

LEVEL 4: SPECIALIST SERVICES REQUIRING LOCAL AUTHORITY CARE.

Family breakdown resulting from the additional demands of the care and supervision of the child/young person.

Illustrative Need

No one is available or able to meet the child or young person's basic needs.
Families who require intensive multi agency support in caring for children with disabilities and/or health needs, or life limiting conditions.
Children/young people with disabilities that require a specialist input because of cognitive and health needs, e.g. CAMHS

CHILDREN IN NEED OF SAFEGUARDING

Illustrative Need

Children who are suffering or likely to suffer significant harm.
Needs at level 4 will require a Child and Family assessment.

Complaints:

If a family is unhappy about the decision in relation to the outcome of an assessment, they should first discuss this with the social worker. If the matter remains unresolved, they have the right to make a formal complaint through the Children Act complaints process. We will provide you with a copy of our leaflet or you can visit www.Southwark.gov.uk/complaints for further information.
Duty number: **0207 525 3977**.

You can also contact POhWER for independent advocacy.
Telephone: **0300 456 2370**, email: pohwer@pohwer.net
Website: <https://www.pohwer.net/southwark>