

Criteria for an Assessment for a Service from the Children with Disabilities (CWD) Social Care Team

1. The criteria listed below identify which children will be considered for a child and family assessment for a service by the Children with Disabilities (CWD) Team. The outcome of the assessment will determine the nature of the involvement and the service offered by the CWD Team in line with the table above. The result of the assessment could be that no service is required.
2. The CWD Team will offer an assessment where:
 - The child has a severe and substantial, long lasting, permanent physical and/or learning disability or a life limiting, life threatening condition, which is supported by information from a doctor or consultant.

AND

 - As a result of their disability, the child requires support that is substantially greater than would normally be expected for his/her chronological age

Where there is uncertainty, the application of concepts “**severe and substantial**” and “**permanent**” could help make good judgements.

- **Severe and substantial** means considerable or significant factors that are life changing or limiting, and might include issues to do with risk and dependency
- **Permanent** means existing indefinitely and not expected to improve.

It should be noted that the criteria are not intended to include the full range of children identified by the definition of disability within the Equality Act (2010). The reason for this is that not all children defined by this act have needs that would require a service from the CWD Team.

As a guide to the types of service that may be provided, please see the resource allocation matrix [here](#).

The CWD Team undertake needs-led assessments which consider the impact of the disability on the day-to-day lived experience of the child and family functioning in order to determine the actual level of service provision.

3. The CWD Team aims to assess families for a service in order to mitigate the impact of a substantial and permanent disability on family life. Other social care teams from the Children and Families Directorate undertake assessments of children and families where the primary presentation of the family does not relate from the impact of a substantial disability, yet the child does also have an impairment.

4. The CWD Team will normally take on case responsibility for siblings of children that meet the criteria above, providing they reside in the same household. This is to prevent more than one social worker working with the family at a point in time. There may be exceptions to this as all families are assessed on a case-by-case basis and subject to professional judgement and cross service agreement.

5. The CWD Team will work within the following legislative framework:
 - Children and young people in receipt of support services under Section 2 Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970 (CSDA)
 - Children in receipt of support services under S.17 Children Act 1989 (CA) including children subject to child protection plans
 - Children looked after by the Local Authority under S.20 or S.31 of the Children Act 1989
 - Young people aged 18-25 who are entitled to leaving care support
 - Children and Families Act 2014 (C+F)