

The Short Breaks Statement is currently under review and will be updated by 1st of April, 2015.

Short breaks statement 2013-2014

The Short Breaks Statement and a full list of current short break providers is available to download at camden.gov.uk/shortbreaks or call **020 3317 2201** to request a copy.

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1) Introduction

The Camden Short Breaks Statement is a document developed for parents and carers of disabled children and young people (0-18 years old) living in Camden. The aim of the statement is to outline to families what short break services are available, the eligibility criteria for these services and how to access them.

Short breaks are a part of the five strategic objectives of the Camden Plan 2012-2017, which is to deliver value for money services by getting it 'right first time' and part of the Children, Schools and Families Directorate Plan for 2013-14 as part of the Inclusion objectives. See camden.gov.uk/camdenplan

The Government's new Children and Families Bill 2013 is due to come into legal effect from September 2014. When the Bill comes into effect, Special Educational Needs Assessments and Statements and Learning Difficulty Assessments (for 16 to 25 year-olds) will be replaced with a single, simpler assessment process and plan. This is called an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan and is for children and young people with special educational needs aged from birth to 25 years. Short breaks will form an element of the EHC plan for 0 to 18 year olds and also form part of the 'local offer' in Camden.

The short breaks statement was designed with the help of parents and carers, professionals involved in commissioning and delivering short breaks, and Camden MOSAIC. Camden Council will be working with parents and carers to develop a shortened easy-read version of the statement which highlights the areas of key importance.

2) What are short breaks?

Short breaks (previously known as respite) form one element of the support offered by Camden Council to disabled children and young people, aged 0 to 18th birthday, and their families. They are fun activities provided after-school, at the weekend and during school holidays which allow children and young people the opportunity to do something they enjoy, independently from their parents. They also give

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parents and carers a break from their caring role. Short breaks in Camden are currently provided without charge but this is under review with the possibility of a charge in the future.

To find out more information about the short breaks on offer or if you have any queries then please contact us:

Short Breaks Co-ordinator and Outreach Worker

Camden MOSAIC

Telephone: **020 3317 2228**

Disabled Children's Team Duty Social Worker: **020 3317 2201 / 2221**

Website: **camden.gov.uk/disabledchildren**

camden.gov.uk/shortbreaks



3) Camden MOSAIC

Camden MOSAIC is the integrated service for the borough's disabled children, young people and their families. It is made up of the Child Development Team (CDT), the Disabled Children's Social Care Team (DCT), Social Communication Assessment Service (SCAS), KIDS Parent Participation and the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS). The Sleep Service and Feeding Clinic are new services developed this year in the integrated service. All these services have been brought together at Kentish Town Health Centre.

The Disabled Children's Social Care Team is made up of Social Workers, Family Support Worker, the Short Breaks Assessor, Short Breaks Co-ordinator and Outreach Worker, Transition Social Workers and Keyworkers. This team is responsible for organising and monitoring short breaks as well as other support and safeguarding services.

4) Benefits of taking short breaks

Providing short breaks has helped many families live a more 'ordinary' life - e.g. parents/carers having some time to rest or spend time with their other children, whilst their disabled child takes part in new and exciting activities. In some cases, the support offered by the short breaks service has helped decrease family stress and prevent family breakdown. Many families have also felt it has enabled them to become stronger and better able to manage.

Outcomes:

- Children, young people and families take part in positive activities they enjoy;
- Improved outcomes for disabled children/young people through positive experiences, whilst providing much-needed breaks for parents/carers.

Feedback on short breaks:

*"The Summer play scheme has been so well organised, he comes home very happy every day." **Parent of child attending Action for Children***

*"We can honestly say that the short breaks provided by Camden so far have given us essential respite to care better for our disabled son." **Parent***

*"Fantastic service, it has made a real difference to the quality of my son's life. With social services input, he has more of a life outside of school and home which would have been nil without the help. He is a healthier and more outgoing young man due to the support from your team over the last 2 years. Thank you." **Parent***

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5) Short break services

We set up new short breaks contracts from October 2012 and these will last for three-and-a-half years. A full list of the current short break providers is available to download at camden.gov.uk/shortbreak. The process of setting up new contracts began with a consultation of parents, carers and disabled young people from November 2011 to January 2012 to assess whether families were happy with the current model of short breaks. We consulted at a number of parent groups, including the Special Parents' Forum, ASD parents group, Swiss Cottage School and Jack Taylor School parents' groups, Bengali parents' group and Somali parents' group. About 50 parents and 15 young people took part in the various consultations.

The main message was that families were happy with the current model of short breaks and the choices available to them so we re-commissioned those services. In some cases, additional places were provided to add value and reduce waiting lists. However, the main change is that these services will be provided by fewer organisations which allow consistency for disabled children and young people as the staff team will remain the same across different activities.

These contracts will be monitored quarterly and there will be an annual review to ensure outcomes for disabled children and young people are being met. Feedback from the children attending the short breaks and their families will be considered in monitoring meetings and will help to improve the services we offer. If you wish to provide feedback directly to the disabled children's team about any of our short breaks, please contact the Short Breaks Co-ordinator on **020 3317 2228**.

6) Eligibility criteria

All families with a disabled child can access universal services (for example children's centres, leisure centres etc) to enable a short break. In Camden we call this pathway 1. Any services which provide a specialist service is called Pathway 2 (Camden Local Offer) or Pathway 3.

Please see Short Breaks Pathways October 2013 to September 2014 (Appendix 1).

To be able to access Camden's local short breaks offer (Pathways 2 and 3) your child will need to meet our eligibility criteria as set out below:

- Aged 0 up to their 18th birthday
- Live within the London Borough of Camden on a permanent basis
- Score either 2 moderates or 1 severe/profound on the Functional Needs Assessment (FNA). Further information about the FNA is available at the end of this document (Appendix 2). The FNA score will be provided by a health professional who knows the needs of your child. A professional from the Disabled Children's Team will support you in understanding the FNA scores.

From September 2013, the process for requesting short breaks will change to a new referral form. The first step in the process is asking a professional who works with your child (school, GP or another health professional) to complete a form called a Single Point of Referral form, which will outline your child's need for short breaks. If you are unable to do this, you can contact the disabled children's team (020 3317 2201) and they can assist you in this process. A professional can request a referral form by emailing adminspon.cnl@nhs.net where a link to the online form is also available. Typically referrals will come from professionals such as Health Visitors, GPs, SENCOS.

Forms not completed using the online form can be emailed to:

adminspon.cnl@nhs.net

or posted to:

Children's Single Point of Referral at MOSAIC

Kentish Town Health Centre

2 Bartholomew Road

London, NW5 2BX

Once received, the Single Point of Referral form will then go to the MOSAIC intake panel to be allocated to appropriate professionals.

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Once your child is accepted into the MOSAIC Disabled Children's Team, a Social Worker or Short Breaks Assessor will contact you to discuss the next steps. For help in this process or further information please call the Disabled Children's Team Duty Social Worker on **020 3317 2201**.

7) Allocation of short breaks

We think it is important to allocate short breaks in a fair way. Some families will need additional support because of their individual needs and circumstances. As every child/young person and their family are different, we provide short breaks within three different levels of support (see appendix 1).

Parent, carers, young people and other working groups have agreed this is fair and sensible. If your child does not meet the criteria for short breaks, then the Short Breaks Co-ordinator and Outreach Worker can signpost you to appropriate activities for your child within mainstream services. However, any cost for the activities will need to be covered by the family. Many families choose to use their disability living allowance (DLA) to fund activities or a support worker.

In a climate of diminishing resources and austerity plans, Camden's budget is under increasing scrutiny. MOSAIC strives to promote an equitable service that ensures the best value for money. As the government continues to request all Local Authorities reduce their costs, we will continually review our services and are likely to make reductions to our services in the future.

Pathway 1 – universal services

Universal or mainstream services in Camden are compliant with the Equality Act 2012 and ensure their services are open to all children and young people. It is an expectation for all services funded through Camden Council that staff take full opportunity of inclusion training and where appropriate have completed training in working with disabled children and their families. There is also specialist training available if needed such as moving and handling.

These services can also provide short breaks to disabled children in a range of settings:

- Early years settings providing education and childcare
- Play services
- After-school clubs
- Sports and leisure services
- Youth services.

Children and young people **eligible** for pathway 2 may choose to use their one-to-one support worker to access mainstream or universal activities in the community.

Families will need to self-fund these activities. You can find out more about these by contacting the service providers directly, the Family Information Service or Short Breaks Co-ordinator and Outreach Worker:

- Family information service (FIS): **020 7974 1679** option 2 (Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm) or use the Camden CINDEX online search engine at **camden.talis.com/engage**

FIS provides information on a range of services for parents, carers, children and young people. The service also acts as a signpost to national information services, helplines and websites. Information is provided on: childcare, help with childcare costs, health, leisure activities.

- Short Breaks Co-ordinator and Outreach Worker: **020 3317 2228** (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm). A short breaks clinic is available on the first Friday of every month at MOSAIC for families to find out about services which are available to access in Camden such as clubs and activities. Call 020 3317 2228 to make an appointment.

Outcomes:

- Parents/carers are supported to provide the best opportunities for their children;
- Children and young people live in safe and nurturing communities.
"My son always finds transition a very difficult process, WAC has been working hard finding different tools for him to engage and transition in different activities. I am very impressed with the level of support he has received and how staff are thinking out of the box when facing constant challenges. My son has become more confident and has settled nicely at WAC I couldn't be happier, thank you!"
Parent of child attending WAC

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Pathway 2 – Camden local short breaks offer (targeted short breaks)

A full social work assessment is needed for this short break pathway.

Targeted short breaks are for disabled children and young people assessed by the disabled children's team as having needs over and above those that can be met through mainstream activities.

From Oct-13 to Sep-14, the local offer for children aged five years old up to their 18th birthday is:

- One session per week during term time, e.g. one after-school club, one weekend activity, or the equivalent hours in agency carer support or direct payments.
- Two days per week in the school holidays (excluding Christmas) provided through a holiday scheme, or the equivalent hours in agency carer support or direct payments.

Families have a choice of services which their children can access. For example, a range of after-school and holiday clubs where children can either access a mainstream after-school club with one-to-one support or, due to their needs, one of our specialist clubs.

Note:

- Children under five will not be offered the local offer but will be assessed based on their and their family's individual circumstances.
- Families can request a change to the short breaks they receive at any point throughout the year as long as the new plan will be equivalent hours and cost. To request a change, please call the Disabled Children's Team Duty Number on **020 3317 2201**.
- Personal care and childcare is considered separately to the local short breaks offer.
- Care plans can be increased for a period of 6 weeks only after the birth of a new baby.
- Days allocated in the school holidays must be used as outlined in the care plan, e.g. two days per week. These days cannot be carried over to future weeks.
- Working parents will be assessed for additional support on an individual basis.
- Siblings will be considered in the social work assessment.
- If appropriate, some children and young people in pathway 2 will be offered occasional group sleepovers.
- The majority of families will not receive short breaks throughout the Christmas holidays as our providers will be closed.

Short breaks for these children and young people are provided in a range of ways:

- Group activities after-school and in school holidays
- Weekend clubs
- Agency support or direct payments
- Group sleepovers
- Buddying

Information on our current short breaks providers as of October 2013 is available to download disabledchildren.com/shortbreaks

It may be that a family would like a carer to take their child out in the community instead of accessing group activities. This can be provided in 2 ways:

- 1) An agency worker
- 2) A direct payment (Information on both these options is provided in Section 8.)

Pathway 3 – specialist offer

Specialist short breaks are for children, young people and their families or carers who may need a higher level of short breaks with extra specialist care. The short breaks that are provided will be in addition to the local offer as outlined in pathway 2. This is in addition to any personal care your child may already be receiving. Personal care is support in the home to help your child meet their basic needs, such as bathing, dressing, toileting and eating. Siblings will be considered in the social work assessment.

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The specialist short breaks offer may include overnight stays as well as a more intensive programme of short breaks during term time and the school holidays. Assessment for the specialist offer will not only look at the child's needs but will give consideration to parental/ family capacity and environmental factors. For example, families under additional pressure such as full time working parents, parents with poor health, children with complex medical needs and families with more than one disabled child.

A full social work assessment is needed for this short break pathway.

8) Direct payments and personalisation

Families receiving pathway 2 or 3 may choose to exchange the group based short breaks they receive for an individual carer, either through a trained agency carer (organised, approved and monitored by the council) or direct payments carer (the family is allocated a budget instead of short breaks services and becomes an employer). Their child can then access activities in the community with the support of their own support worker.

Based on the local offer (pathway 2), this exchange of hours could be up to:

- 10 hours per week in the school holidays (11 weeks excluding Christmas holidays)
- 3 to 5 hours per week during term time (39 weeks).

There is a direct payment support service called DISC who will help families throughout the entire process of setting up direct payments. This includes supporting with the recruitment process, and completing all necessary paperwork. We strongly recommend that all direct payment workers are CRB checked, even if they are a family member. This will be organised by Camden Council on your request.

You can contact them at:

Personalised Support In Camden (PSIC)
68 Phoenix Road
NW1 1E4

Tel: **020 7383 4901**

Email: pat.stack@psic.org.uk

We are currently working to develop individual budgets and have a commitment to personalisation.

9) Transport

Transport can be a barrier to accessing short breaks. A range of transport is available for families where a need is assessed and this will be discussed when a short break is allocated. We will continue to work with our short break providers to support independent travel training for young people where appropriate.

10) Short breaks and transition panel for pathways 2 and 3

All short break care plans are approved at a short breaks panel on a yearly basis. The panel meets fortnightly and consists of professionals from the different services that provide support to severely disabled children. This group looks at the best way of providing and funding short breaks for children and young people with the highest levels of need. The panel takes into account the opinions of the family and specialists who work with the child or young person and brings everyone's ideas together to work out how best to provide the right short breaks package for the child or young person and their family.

Before panel, a Social Worker or Short Breaks Assessor will have met with the family to complete an assessment and write up a plan of suggested short breaks for the family. This professional will then present the proposed plan to the panel for agreement. Parents and young people are invited to attend

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the panel to provide their opinions about the kind of short breaks they would like as well as to talk about the short break services they already receive.

For young people aged 14 years+, the proposed care plan will be presented at a transition panel which is made up of professionals from both the Children and Adults Services. This ensures that the planning process begins from the age of 14 so that a clear plan is in place when a young person turns 18.

11) Appeal process prior to panel

Parents and carers will receive a copy of the short breaks care plan being presented by the social worker in sufficient time to prepare a response for panel. If parents, carers or young people are not in agreement with the decision that panel has made they should initially discuss any concerns with the Social Worker who completed the care plan or the Duty Senior Social Worker. Please call the Disabled Children's Team on 020 3317 2201.

If the issues are not resolved at this first stage then you will need to officially appeal the panel decision within 14 days of the panel date. You can do this by contacting the manger of the Disabled Children's Team on 020 3317 2201.

The proposed short breaks care plan will be reconsidered by the next available panel. This panel will have at least one different member from the panel where the original decision was made. Parents, carers and young people are invited to attend and any further information will be considered.

If the issue is not resolved at panel then the parent, carer or young person can follow the Camden Council complaints procedure (see section 16).

Outcomes:

- Children, young people and families are involved in decision-making;
- Families are involved in decisions about the service and support they receive.

"Being in the panel meeting made me feel welcome and gave me the opportunity to have my say and felt like I had been heard." Parent

"We found the process very quick and painless. Everyone was friendly and helpful. Our short break care is working out very well and our son is very happy. Thank you." Parent

"We felt very supported through this whole process - and lucky to be in Camden." Parent

The transition service is made up of a core team of 4 social workers, and one transition team manager who work across Children's and Adults services with children and young people with multiple and complex health and social care needs from 14 up to the age of 25. The Transition service also has a Transition Service Manager who focuses on the strategic development of the Transition Service within Camden. The team works in partnership with organisations to ensure that all eligible young people with multiple and complex health and social care needs are identified, and supported to have a smooth, person centred and seamless transition from childhood to adulthood.

Children's and adults services plan together at the transition panel, with input from families, to make joint agreements when allocating short breaks for young people, aged 14 and older. This is part of the planning for each individual young person's future and to help the young person and their families, where eligible, to experience as easy a transition into adult services as possible.

Visit ClickStart for an easy read website detailing services and activities for disabled adults and young people: camden.clickstart.org.uk

Outcomes:

- Children and young people have the skills they need to achieve economic wellbeing in adulthood;
- Disabled children and young people (CYP) have a smoother transition from children's into adult services.

“Working as a transition social worker allows me to support a young person and their family with the planning required as they approach their 18th birthday and move on to adult's services. This is an important time in the young person's life as there are many changes so being a consistent professional provides the young person and family with stability.”

13) Equality

All our short breaks providers are contracted to:

- Respect the service user's dignity, privacy and independence
- Respect the service user's way of life
- Maintain a confidential service
- Involve the service user and their family in decisions about the service offered.

The short breaks providers we commission are compliant with the Equality Act 2012 and promote social inclusion and equal access to services. Access will not just focus on physical access but on making services easier for everyone to use. The short break providers will not unlawfully discriminate on such grounds as race, colour, ethnicity, disability, sex or sexual orientation, religion or age. The providers will aim to reflect the diverse culture of Camden and all staff will be aware of equality issues.

14) MOSAIC inTouch quarterly newsletter

MOSAIC develops a quarterly newsletter called inTouch which is for families with disabled children. The newsletter includes information on parents groups, activities for disabled children and their families and any updates on services provided by Camden Council.

If you would like to receive the MOSAIC inTouch newsletter then you can complete the inTouch registration form. There is an option to provide your email address to receive regular emails from the Short Breaks Coordinator for services and events which may be of interest to your family. If eligible for short breaks, you can also apply for MOSAIC disability card which can be used at a variety of settings to gain discounts on entrance fees, such as carer gets a free ticket. To receive an inTouch registration form please call **020 3317 2228** or visit camden.gov.uk/disabledchildren

15) How children and families can contribute to planning and review of short breaks services

We will continue to ask disabled children and young people and their families what they think of services through the Special Parents' Forum and Re-Active (Disabled Young Persons' Forum) as well as through events for disabled children and their families and will use this information to help us review the quality and value for money of our short break services.

Parents' Forum

Our Special Parents' Forum is a diverse group of parents reflecting the different cultures and backgrounds of the disabled children and young people that live in Camden. Representatives from the forum sit on short breaks planning groups so they are involved in decision-making at every stage.

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The Special Parents' Forum meets once every half-term at KIDS at various locations and is a forum to receive up-to-date information about services as well as an opportunity to meet with other parents and share experiences. Camden Council works closely with the Parents' Forum to ensure that parental experiences and views shape our short breaks programme.

For more information on the Special Parents' Forum call Linnet MacIntyre on 07734901226 or email linnet.macintyre@kids.org.uk

You can visit their Facebook page on: <https://www.facebook.com/CamdenSpecialParentsForum?ref=hl>

Young Persons Forum

The Reactive forum meets monthly at Elfrida Rathbone Camden to help create greater opportunities for young disabled people aged 13 to 25, to influence strategic decision-making across the Council, and to promote other issues that are important to them. For example, the young people have been involved in consultations to give their views about services as well as selection panels for short break providers. Reactive can be contacted via Lizzie Streeter, Strategy and Participation Officer (Children, Schools and Families, Crowndale Centre) by email: Lizzie.Streeter@camden.gov.uk or phone: 0207 974 7251.



16) Comments and complaints:

Feedback is always welcome. Please let us know what you think about our short breaks services or, if you feel we could do things better, by contacting our Short Breaks Co-ordinator on **020 3317 2228**.

If you have a complaint about a short breaks service or a member of the Disabled Children's Team, please contact the Duty Manager on **020 3317 2221**.

If it has not been possible to resolve a problem initially then you can write to Camden Council at:

The Complaints Officer
Children, schools and families
Camden Council
Crowndale Centre
218 Eversholt Street
London
NW1 1BD

Website: camden.gov.uk/complaints

Tel: **020 7974 6673 / 0800 393561** (Freephone)

17) Where to get this statement

This statement is available to download on the Camden website: camden.gov.uk/shortbreaks or call **020 3317 2201** to request a copy. This document will be reviewed annually and published on the camden.gov.uk/shortbreaks website in October each year.

Appendix 1: Short breaks pathways

	Pathway 1 - Universal	Pathway 2 – Targeted (Camden Local offer)	Pathway 3 - Specialist
Who can access?	<p>Children and young people with a disability who require limited or no support to access an activity.</p> <p>Many organisations have received training in working with disabled children or recruit volunteers to ensure disabled children are able to attend with 1:1 support.</p>	<p>Children and young people (aged 0-18th birthday) with a severe disability or a number of moderate disabilities.</p> <p>These children would need to meet the eligibility criteria of the disabled children's team based on the severity of their disability.</p> <p>These children <i>may</i> be non-verbal, wheelchair users or have complex medical needs.</p>	<p>Children and young people (aged 0-18th birthday) with a severe disability or a number of moderate disabilities - plus additional pressures on the family such as, more than one disabled child in the family, parent/carer with a disability, child with complex medical needs etc.</p>
What is the process?	<p>Family Information Service or MOSAIC Short Breaks Outreach Worker can signpost families to universal / mainstream services in the community.</p>	<p>Assessment by the MOSAIC Disabled Children's Team.</p>	<p>Assessment by the MOSAIC Disabled Children's Team.</p>
What is available?	<p>Services and activities in the community which may have a cost to be provided by the family.</p>	<p>MOSAIC Disabled Children's Team can provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 session per week during term time (39 weeks) • 2 days per week in the school holidays (11 weeks – excluding Christmas holidays) • The above hours can be provided by an agency worker or through direct payments. 	<p>The Camden Local Offer will be provided plus additional short breaks such as extra sessions during term time or in the holidays.</p> <p>There will be an assessed need by a social worker to receive this extra support.</p>
Who do I contact?	<p>Call Family Information Service on 020 7974 1679, option 2 or;</p> <p>MOSAIC Short Breaks Coordinator: 020 3317 2228</p>	<p>To discuss if your child is eligible for short breaks, please call the MOSAIC Disabled Children's Team on 020 3317 2201.</p>	<p>To discuss if your child is eligible for short breaks, please call the MOSAIC Disabled Children's Team on 020 3317 2201.</p>

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Appendix 2: Functional Needs Assessment (FNA)

In order to meet the disabled children's team criteria the child or young person is required to score either 2 moderates or 1 severe/profound on the functional needs assessments (FNA). This assessment will require input from a health professional who is working with your child. A professional can help you in understanding the FNA scores, please call the disabled children's team on 020 3317 2201.

Eligible if 2 scored

Eligible if 1 scored

FUNCTION	0 – NO PROBLEMS	1 - MILD	2 - MODERATE	3 - SEVERE	4 - PROFOUND	N – NOT TESTED
INTELLECTUAL LEARNING (1)	No Problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Usually functionally independent (allowing for age) Identified Specific Learning Disability (likely to have continuing educational implications). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Psychometric / Developmental assessment reveals Moderate Learning Difficulty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Psychometric / Developmental assessment reveals Severe Learning Difficulty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Psychometric / Developmental assessment reveals Profound Learning Difficulty 	Not Tested
GROSS MOTOR (E.G. MOBILITY) (2)	No Problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generally walks and functional independently, but some limitations e.g. Slow walking, poor balance, asymmetry. Motor organisational difficulties Mild motor impairment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Difficulty in changing positions. Moderately delayed level of mobility Walks with aids or assistance, may use wheelchair May require postural management for function 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires assistance to move in and out of position. Markedly abnormal patterns of movement. High level of postural management required. Unlikely to be independently mobile. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unable to walk / uses wheelchair exclusively. 	Not Tested
FINE MOTOR (E.G. MANIPULATION) (3)	No Problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possible tremor, unsteadiness, awkward release. Delay in acquisition of skills Some difficulties in play, writing, drawing or dressing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restricted movements of one or both hands when reading / stretching / feeding / writing / dressing i.e. affects daily life. Poor manipulative skills. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires aids / assistance for fine motor function. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No bilateral grasp and release. Unable to feed self or write, might use a switch system. 	Not Tested
VISION (4)	No Problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VQ < 6/18 in better eye. Problem e.g. amblyopia in one eye. Minor visual field loss. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VA 6/24 – 6/36 in better eye (visual difficulty affecting mobility). Reads print with aids. Defect in at least half visual field. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partially sighted i.e. VA 6/36 – 6/60 in better eye. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (Registered) blind, i.e. Visual Activity (VA) less than 6/60 in better eye (unable to see hand movements). 	Not Tested
HEARING (5)	No Problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One ear normal (<30 dB), profound loss in other (>70 dB). Bilateral hearing loss of 30 – 40 dB. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bilateral hearing loss with 41-70 dB loss in better ear and / or failed free-field testing on 2+ occasions over a six month period. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hearing loss of 71 – 90 dB in better ear 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Profound bilateral hearing loss (>90 dB in better ear) whether aided or implanted. 	Not Tested
SPEECH & LANGUAGE / COMMUNICATION (6)	No Problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child may show isolated pockets of specific speech and / or language difficulty or a mild delay in acquisition of language skills that may 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child may show an uneven profile of development across verbal / non-verbal skills, demonstrating areas of strength as well as areas of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication difficulties present as the primary factor in preventing the development of appropriate social interaction and access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child presents with complex communication needs, typically in association with autism or a range of disabilities (hearing, visual, 	Not Tested

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		occur in association with a more general developmental delay.	difficulty. Alternatively the child may present with the moderate delay in acquisition of language skills in association with globally delayed learning skills and other areas of development.	to learning. Child shows absence of spontaneous development of skills in the key area of form, content and/or use.	learning, physical), chronic of degenerative medical conditions. Alternative / argumentative systems used as primary means of communication.	
FUNCTION	0 – NO PROBLEMS	1 - MILD	2 - MODERATE	3 - SEVERE	4 - PROFOUND	N – NOT TESTED
BEHAVIOURAL PROBLEMS (7)	No Problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sometimes aggressive or difficult to manage / control (2+ times a week). • Sometimes tearful / depressed / anxious (unrelated to immediate circumstances). • Restless / distractible – often does not settle to age-appropriate activity. • Problems probably outside norms for age and social group. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequent aggressive or difficult to manage / control (once a day). • Frequent tearful / depressed / anxious (once a day). • Rarely settles to age-appropriate activity. • Problems causing considerable difficulties to family or group. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persistently aggressive or difficult to manage / control (several times a day). • Depressed / anxious sufficient to be considered at risk of self harm or to be disrupting daily routines i.e. attendance at school. • Never settles to age-appropriate activity. • Unable to function in a group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aggressive behaviour causing significant injury to others requiring constant adult supervision. • Severe persistent self-harm behaviours (overdose, head banging, cutting) or assessed as suicide risk by appropriate child mental health professional. 	Not Tested
SOCIAL / ENVIRONMENTAL (8)	N/A	N/A	THE community trust has no plans to use this category at this time	N/A	N/A	N/A
SELF HELP (9)	No Problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some delay in independent function in relation to age norm. • Organisational difficulties requiring supervision. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires facilitation or assistance with ADL (Activities of Daily living), e.g. self-feeding regimes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires constant assistance with ADL. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Totally dependant on others for ADL. 	Not Tested
PHYSICAL HEALTH (10)	No Problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well controlled symptoms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partially controlled symptoms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has a serious deteriorating illness. • Poor control of symptoms. • Oxygen dependant. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Palliative care required. • Requires mechanical ventilation. 	Not Tested
EATING DRINKING and SWALLOWING (11)	No Problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copes well with wide variety of textures but occasional problems in chewing or controlling food and drink, particularly liquid, in the mouth. • Infrequent episodes of choking: minimal risk of aspiration. • Rejection or intolerance of some textures e.g. spits out or gags on lumps. • Manages without NG or gastrostomy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some ability to cope with limited textures e.g. soft foods and thickened drink, but some loss of control of food and drink in the mouth. • Periodic episodes of choking: some risk of aspiration. • Wary and intolerant of the introduction of new textures e.g. averts head, pushes spoon away. • Needs intermittent NG or gastrostomy feeding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inability to cope with any texture; extremely limited oral movement with poor control of food and drink in the mouth. • Adverse reaction often observed when food or drink presented e.g. cries, extends. • Needs long term NG or gastrostomy feeding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inability to cope with any texture; extremely limited oral movement with no control of food and drink in the mouth. • Frequent choking on all intake; significant risk of aspiration. • No oral feeding ability. 	Not Tested

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