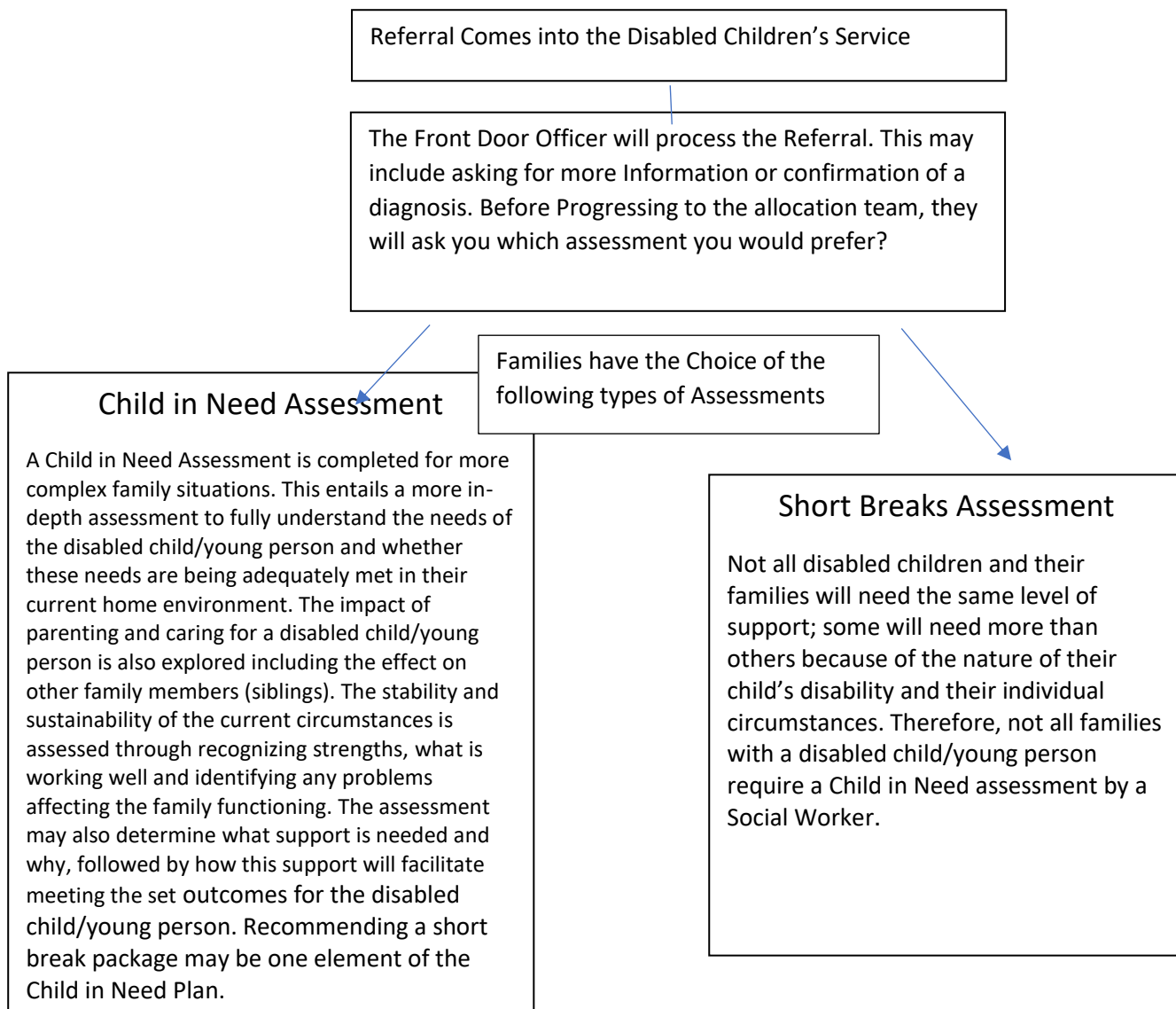


Guide to Assessments for Your Disabled Child

Section 17 (11) of the Children's Act 1989 states that a disabled child is a 'child in need' and is entitled to an assessment from the social services department. The assessment is the start of a process to decide if services are needed. It is also an opportunity for the parent or carer to tell a professional about their child and their family's needs.

- In Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster families with a disabled child are offered either Children in Need or a Short-Breaks Assessment.
- These assessments can both lead to a service being provided but are different in approach.
- Both Services sit together and are part of the Disabled Children's Service

The following information explains the differences in approach and can be discussed with the Front Door Officer who will need to know which assessment is wanted prior to taking your Referral.



Social Work -Child in Need Assessment

Who does the assessment? -

This is completed by a qualified Social Worker

How long does it take?

This is completed within 45 working days

What information is gathered and explored for this Assessment?

Please note the wording used in this assessment reflects the CIN requirements

What are the developmental needs of the child?

Are the parents able to respond appropriately to the child's identified needs?

Do the parents have the capacity to respond to the child's needs?

Are the parents able to promote the child's health and development?

What impact are the family functioning and history, the wider family and environmental factors having on the parents' capacity to respond to their child's needs and the child's developmental progress?

Are there any other children in the household or elsewhere who should be included in the assessment?

The impact that caring for a disabled child or young person is having on the family (eg the effect of disturbed nights on the carer and their family, impact of moving and handling has on the wellbeing of the carer, where the disabled child/young person has severe challenging behaviours the impact on their functioning and whether they pose a risk to self or others).

Health of the carer and impact caring is having on their own physical and mental health.

Short Breaks Assessment

Who does this assessment? -

This is completed by a professional qualified in Health and Social care

How long does it take?

This is completed within 30 working days

What information is gathered and explored for this Assessment?

Specific needs of the child/young person in all areas of their development (physical, health, social and emotional needs)

Exploring the daily routine and impact of caring for a disabled child/young person (self-care routine, sleeping, feeding) what support is needed to promote the independence of this child/young person.

Factors in relation to the carer that may impact/inhibit their ability to meet the disabled child/young person's needs.

Exploring what support the child/young person or carer may need to promote their independence.

Exploring the impact of caring for a disabled child/young person on the whole family, offering practical or emotional support to siblings and carers.

Barriers the disabled child/young person currently faces with accessing any social activity outside the home and what support is needed to promote their participation in the community (inclusion).

Exploring current support available within the family, friends and professional network.

Social Work -Child in Need Assessment

The ability of the parent/main carer to meet the disabled child's (physical, health, social and emotional needs) and other children in the family unit.

What support/services are required to enable the parent/s or main carer to consistently provide and meet the needs of the disabled child

The possibility of Safeguarding concerns within the Family

Likelihood of family breakdown resulting from the demands of the care, supervision, or behaviour of the child/young person.

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

Both assessments will look at the following

- Consent must be given by the family to complete either assessment and contact other professionals involved with the family.
- Consent does not need to be sort if there are Safeguarding issues around the family?
- Everyone in the family home are seen including siblings and the disabled child.
- Information is gathered from professionals that know the family. This can Include GPs, schools, Health Visitors

Care Plans offered following assessment

Child in need Plan

- The plan should set out:
- what is working well within the family;
- what support is required and why;
- which agencies will provide the required services;
- what the child and/or family agree to do;
- what the expected outcomes are; what the
- timeframe of the plan is and when it will be reviewed. The first review should be held within 3 months of the start of the child in need plan and further reviews should take place at least every 6 months thereafter
- What package of care is required for the child and family.

Care Plans offered following assessment

Short Breaks Plan

- Care Packages need to provide a balance between providing a Short Break for the carer but also a meaningful experience for the child/young person.
- Important for packages to achieve outcomes for the child/young person eg play opportunities that will promote/develop a child's social skills, language development and emotional well-being.
- Care Packages are reviewed on an annual basis, packages can be reviewed earlier due to a significant change in circumstances.
- Outcomes are reviewed to determine whether the current care package is meeting the identified needs of the child/young person. These outcomes should tie in and complement the outcomes in the child/young person Education Health Care Plan (EHCP)

