

Children with Disabilities Team

A brief guide for parents and carers



2021

Children & Families

Welcome to the Children with Disabilities Team

Who we are and what we do

The **Children with Disabilities Team** (CWD team) is part of Ealing Children's Services. The team is located within Ealing Service for Children with Additional Needs (ESCAN) and works closely with colleagues in Education, Health and Adults Social Care services.

More information about the range of ESCAN services can be found on Ealing's Local Offer website www.ealinglocaloffer.org.uk or in the ESCAN leaflet in this pack.

The Children with Disabilities Team take responsibility for the assessment and support of children and young people up to the age of 18 who have a disability and are likely to have life-long support needs. This includes children with a physical or learning disability, complex health needs or with autism.

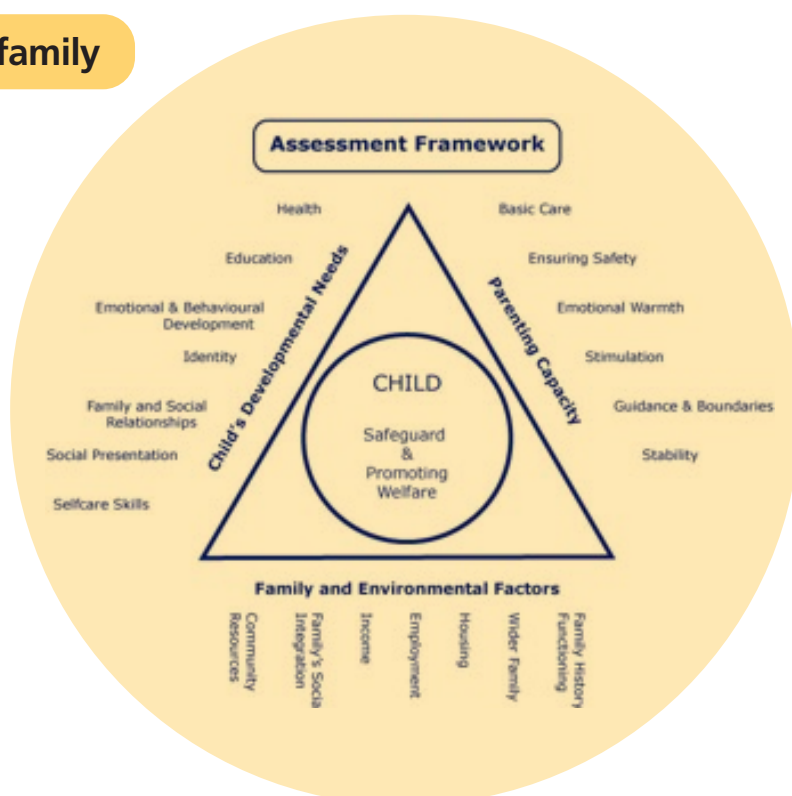
How can you access the Children with Disabilities Team?

All referrals of children with disabilities for social care services (including for short breaks) should go first to Ealing Children's Integrated Response Service (ECIRS). ECIRS is the 'front door' to Children's Services.

ECIRS will decide if the child's needs meet the criteria for the CWD team and if so will refer on to the team. If not, ECIRS will consider referring the child to another social care team e.g. one of the Multi Agency Support Teams (MAST) for further assessment or to one of Ealing's Early Help Services, which includes SAFE (Supportive Action for Families in Ealing) and Parenting Services.

Getting to know your child and family

Once you have been referred to the CWD team, we will arrange to visit you to carry out an assessment of your child and family's needs – this is called a Child and Family Assessment (CFA). We will want to understand more about several areas of your child's life so we will need to visit more than once. The areas covered in the assessment can be seen on the Triangle diagram. There is a leaflet with more details about Child and Family Assessments in this pack. The assessment is an opportunity for you to tell us about your child and discuss any support needs.



What help and support can the team offer?

Once we have completed the Child and Family Assessment, we will write a report – it will include your views (and your child's views where possible) and we will give you a copy. The report will set out what help and support we think will meet your child and family's needs and what we can offer you. This may be:

Short breaks

Short breaks offer a way of supporting carers by providing opportunities for children and young people to spend time away from their parents/carers. This may include day, evening, overnight or weekend activities and can take place at the child's home, in the local community, at the home of an approved carer, or in a residential setting.

Help to find Financial Support

The team can give you advice and help to access benefits, grants and funding that may be available to support your child, or you as a parent or carer.

When your child is being assessed for an Education Health and Care plan (EHC plan) a personal budget (including Direct payments) will be agreed which you can use to pay for support services, like carers or specialist equipment.

Parenting Courses

Ealing's Parenting Service runs and organises many programmes throughout the year, free of charge for parents and carers living in Ealing. The courses and workshops provide the opportunity for parents and carers to share their experiences, learn from each other and about strategies to build positive family relationships. They run a number of courses specifically for parents of children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities.

Social Work Support

If the outcome of the Child and Family Assessment is a recommendation that your child and family would benefit from social work support through a Child in Need or Child Protection Plan, you will be allocated a Social Worker who will visit you and child regularly. The Social Worker will work with you and others involved with your child and family e.g. school, GP to address areas of concern and provide support so that you can overcome problems.

Referral to other services

Where relevant we will refer you to other services that can support your child and family. This may be to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) for assessment and support with complex emotional and behavioural issues, to SAFE for Parenting support or other relevant services.

If you are not already accessing all relevant Health and Education services, we may also refer or signpost you to these.

General information about how to access Health and Education services can be found on the Local Offer site www.ealinglocaloffer.org.uk or in the ESCAN Leaflet.

Young Carers Support

A young carer is somebody under the age of 18 who takes on the responsibility of supporting family members who cannot manage on their own. Young carers are entitled to a young carer's needs assessment under legislation, to look at whether their caring role is such that extra support is needed. The Ealing Young Carers Project (provided by Brentford FC Community Sports Trust) offers opportunities for young carers to have a break from their caring role and meet other young carers. If you are aware of a young person who might be a young carer, you can contact ECIRS to discuss whether a needs assessment is appropriate.

Contact ECIRS: **020 8825 8000**

More information on Ealing Young Carers Project T: **0208 326 7044**

E: **ksobczak@brentfordfcst.com**

What you can expect of the team

The Children with Disabilities Team works to the same practice principles as other teams withing Ealing Children's Services. We are committed to:

- ➔ improving the lives and outcomes for children, young people and families
- ➔ listening and building respectful and trusting relationships with children, young people, families and carers
- ➔ being open, honest and inclusive in our work with you
- ➔ understanding issues of diversity and identity for your child and family
- ➔ facilitating communication with you and your child – through using interpreters and other communication tools where needed
- ➔ keeping children safe and building on family's strengths and resources

Consent and Information Sharing

We will ask you for your consent to talk with other agencies who are involved with your child and family. We only ask agencies for information that is relevant to us when we are carrying out an assessment or providing services. You will be asked to sign a consent form so you are clear about how we share information.

If Children's Services are concerned that any child is at risk of harm, we may have to talk to other agencies without parental consent, but we will keep you informed if this happens.

How we work with colleagues in other services

We work closely with our colleagues in Health, CAMHS and Education services and you will be invited to take part in multi-disciplinary meetings to develop plans for supporting your child and yourself as a parent/carer.

If your child is eligible for Adults Services, we will start planning the transition from Children's to Adults Services once your child reaches aged 14 years of age.

If you are concerned about the safety or welfare of a child

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Disabled children can be particularly vulnerable to harm and exploitation.

If anyone has a concern about the safety or welfare of any child or young person, they should contact Ealing Children's Integrated Response Service (ECIRS) on **020 8825 8000**. ECIRS acts as the 'front door' to Children's Services and will take appropriate action to safeguard the child and refer on to relevant services where needed.

Telling us what you think

We are always happy to listen and hear your feedback on our service and we will carry out surveys to ask for your views from time to time. If you have any specific comments, compliments or complaints we suggest you first speak to your child's Social Worker (if allocated) or contact the CWD Team Manager or Head of Service. (Details below)

If your issue cannot be resolved in this way you can contact Ealing Customer Care Team.

T: **020 8825 8100** E: **complaints_childrens_services@ealing.gov.uk**

W: **www.ealing.gov.uk/complaints**

We particularly welcome feedback from children and young people and offer an Advocacy Service (through Coram Voice) if they need help to get their voices heard.

The Coram Voice Advocacy Service can be contacted on: T: **0808 800 5792**

Sources of information

Ealing's Local Offer website is a great resource with information on a range of services. It can also provide much information in community languages through the 'translate' button. A few key resources are included in this leaflet but there are many more on the site. Ask your Social Worker if you need help to access this resource or want more information.

Local Offer Website

The 'Local Offer' is used to describe all the services and provisions available to children, young people and families 'locally' who are living with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND). The Local Offer website is a resource to help you understand what is available and how to access services and support.

T: **020 8825 5588**

E: **children@ealing.gov.uk**

W: **www.ealinglocaloffer.org.uk**

Ealing Family Information Service (FIS) runs the Local Offer site. The FIS has a dedicated SEND Officer who provides advice, support and specialist information for families who have a child with additional needs or disability.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services. (CAMHS) - West London NHS Trust

CAMHS provides multi-disciplinary mental health assessment and treatment for children, young people (aged 0 -18) and their families. living in the London Borough of Ealing.

For more information see the Trust website <https://westlondon.nhs.uk/service/camhs/>

Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment and Plan

A statutory Education, Health and Care need assessment is a co-ordinated multi-disciplinary assessment carried out for children and young people age 0-25 with severe and complex special educational needs - under the Children and Families Act 2014 and the SEN code of practice 2015 <https://westlondon.nhs.uk/service/camhs/>. The co-ordinated assessment determines whether an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan is needed.

Detailed information about the SEND process can be found at Ealing Local Offer site:

www.ealinglocaloffer.org.uk

Ealing Parent & Carer Forum

Ealing Parent & Carer Forum was set up to give local parents a voice in planning and delivering services to children with disabilities/additional needs.

It is open to any parent /carer of a child or young adult under 25 with additional needs in education, health or social care. The forum also offers free monthly information workshops covering a variety of topics.

To join the forum or to find out more, you can get in touch via the details below.

E: info@epcf.org.uk W: www.epcf.org.uk

Ealing ISAID

ISAID (Impartial Support, Advice and Information on Disabilities and Special Educational Needs) offers free, impartial, independent advice and support to families living in Ealing with a son or daughter up to the age of 25 who has special educational needs or a disability (SEND). ISAID aim to ensure parents and young people understand everything and can fully participate in the EHCP process by explaining how the EHCP assessment process works.

T: **020 3978 8989** E: isaidealing@family-action.org.uk W: www.ealing-isaid.org.uk

Contact Ealing

Contact provide advice, information and support to families caring for children and young people aged 0-25, with any disability or additional need, regardless of diagnosis.

E: ealing@contact.org.uk W: <https://contact.org.uk>

Ealing Carers Centre

Ealing Carers Centre provides information, advice, and signposting for unpaid carers across Ealing. Services include benefits advice, help with form-filling, referral to services, peer support groups, free counselling, a carers' forum, coffee mornings, legal advice and more.

E: info@carerstrusthillingdon.org.uk W: www.carerstrustthames.org.uk

Ealing Mencap

Ealing Mencap represents the interests of people with learning disabilities and their carers within the borough of Ealing. Ealing Mencap offers a range of opportunities and services for people with learning disabilities as well as their carers and families: Life skills, training, advice, housing support, travel training, social clubs and children's services. Services are based at their main centre, Enterprise Lodge, as well as in the community, at other centres in the borough.

T: **020 8566 9575**, (Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm) W: www.ealingmencap.org.uk

P.E.S.T.S is a support group for families with children under the age of five with a disability. Support is offered through advice, information and befriending. They provide a playgroup have visiting speakers and therapists who work with the group. For more details:

T: **020 8571 9954** E: info@pestscharity.org.uk or outreach@pestscharity.org.uk
W: www.pestscharity.org.uk

Contact us

→ Children with Disabilities Team (CWD team)

Carmelita House, 21-22 The Mall, Ealing, London W5 6PJ
Duty Number for CWD Team: T: **020 8825 7072** (Mon – Fri 9am to 5pm)
Head of Service: Ruth Meader | Team Manager: Michael Bonello

→ Ealing Service for Children with Additional Needs (ESCAN)

Carmelita House, 21-22 The Mall, Ealing, London W5 6PJ
General number to access all ESCAN based services T: **020 8825 8700**

→ Ealing Children's Integrated Response Service (ECIRS)

Perceval House 2nd Floor
14-16 Uxbridge Road
Ealing, London W5 2HL
T: **020 8825 8000** option 1 (Mon – Fri 9am to 5pm)

→ Emergency Duty Team (EDT)

Out of hours team covering emergencies in Children's and Adults services
T: **020 8825 8000**

Key Terms

CA 1989	Children Act 1989
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) at West London NHS Trust.
CFA	Child and Family Assessment (CFA)
CSDPA	Chronically Sick and Disabled Person's Act 1970
CWD Team	Children with Disabilities Team
DP	Direct Payments
ECIRS	Ealing Children's Integrated Response Service (ECIRS) -the 'front door' to Children's Services.
EHAP	Early Help Assessment and Plan
EHCP	An EHC Plan is a legal document covering the education, health and care needs of a child/young person, the outcomes expected, and provision required to achieve the outcomes.
EDT	Emergency Duty Team – out of hours team for children and adults
ESCAN	Ealing Service for Children with Additional Needs (ESCAN) - a multi-agency service run by the NHS and Ealing Council offering a single point of contact for information, referrals, assessments and help for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.
MAST	Multi Agency Support Team – part of the Children in Need Service
SAFE	Supportive Action for Families in Ealing (SAFE) – an Early Help Service offering parenting services, counselling and more for those eligible.
SEND	Special Educational Needs and /or Disabilities
Transition	Process of transferring from Children's to Adults Services where eligible.

Key Legislation

The 1989 Children Act defines a **child in need** as:

- a) The child is unlikely to achieve or maintain, or have the opportunity of achieving or maintaining a reasonable standard of health or development without the provision for the child of services by a Local Authority or;
- b) The child's health or development is likely to be significantly impaired or further impaired, without the provision for the child of such services;
- c) The child is disabled.

Disabled children have the right to a statutory Child in Need assessment under section 17 Children Act 1989 Children Act 1989 (legislation.gov.uk). If the Local Authority determines that there are no needs to be met under section 17 of the Children Act it must then consider whether there are needs arising from disability which it has a duty to meet under the Chronically Sick and Disabled Person's Act 1970 (this will be done within the same assessment). Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970 (legislation.gov.uk)

Parents and carers of a child with disabilities have the right to request a statutory carer assessment under Section 17ZD of the Children Act 1989 (Section 97 of the Children & Families Act 2014 amended the Children Act 1989 by adding s17ZD). This assessment can be carried out by any social worker undertaking a Section 17 assessment.