

Children's Community Learning  
Disability and Behaviour Support  
Service - Guidance for referrers.

## Eligibility

- With Global Developmental Delay or Learning Disabilities with or without autism
- Who require specialist support beyond universal and targeted service

*For children up to age 11 years:*

- Who have a diagnosis of autism, without learning disabilities
- We have a limited offer of services for those in the process of assessment for autism

## Pathway of support

To be eligible for our service a child needs to have Global Developmental Delay, a confirmed Learning Disability or be diagnosed with autism (see definitions below).

We have a limited number of workshops we can offer to those in the process of autism assessment.

Our two main pathways of support are in relation to behaviour and accessing appropriate health services.

If a referral is accepted a clinic appointment will be offered to identify with the parent how best to support the child's needs.

The service provides a range of helpful group sessions for parents.

The service can also work with others to identify how to manage risky situations, and can provide advice and consultation to other health services to help them be flexible to meet your child's needs.

## Making a referral:

We accept referrals from parents and professionals – please request a referral form via the contact details below:

South Cumbria Children's Learning  
Disability and Behaviour Support Service

Telephone 01229 404693 or email us on [CumbriaChildrensLD@lancashirecare.nhs.uk](mailto:CumbriaChildrensLD@lancashirecare.nhs.uk)

## Definitions:

### What is a Learning Disability?

1. A significantly reduced ability to understand complex information or learn new skills (Impaired cognitive functioning)
2. A reduced ability to cope independently (impaired social functioning)
3. Started before 18 years old with lasting effect on development

A person with a learning disability will have difficulty with the core areas below, and will be assessed on an individual basis:

- **Comprehension**- understanding what is meant or said. May need additional time to process events
- **Expression**- making themselves understood and expressing needs and wishes
- **Attention**- May be limited or focused on other things
- **Perception**- of events, language and the world around them may differ
- **Short term memory**- may have difficulty remembering things like appointment dates and times
- **Coping with change**- changes to daily routine and events might be difficult for the person
- **Communication**- struggle to understand instructions, communicating verbally

### What is Global Developmental Delay?

In early childhood (that is, under five years) it can be difficult to determine whether or not a child with delays in development has a learning disability. During these years a label of Global Developmental Delay is often used. Children and young people with this diagnosis are therefore also considered within the scope of this service.

It is not a specific diagnosis, and may be a description that sits alongside a specific diagnosis of a developmental or genetic condition.

### What is Autism?

Autism is a lifelong, developmental disability that affects how a person communicates with and relates to other people, and how they experience the world around them.

(Taken from the National Autistic Society - NAS: <http://www.autism.org.uk/about/what-is.aspx> 19.09.2017)

### What is behaviour that challenges?

'Behaviour can be described as challenging when it is of such an intensity, frequency, or duration as to threaten the quality of life and/or the physical safety of the individual or others and it is likely to lead to responses that are restrictive, aversive or result in exclusion.'



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Emerson, E (1995), cited in Emerson, E (2001, 2nd edition): Challenging Behaviour: Analysis and intervention in people with learning disabilities. Cambridge University Press

## Essential information for referral:

South Cumbria Children's Learning  
Disability and Behaviour Support Service

**If pages 1 and 2 are not completed, it will delay the referral process and the referral may be rejected.**

All information on page 1 to be completed in full to include:

- Child's full name including previous last names, legal and known names
- Full details of parents (i.e. first name, phone number and full address and postcode)
- Ensure that the person with parental responsibility has consented to the referral
- Parental responsibility identified
- Who the child lives with
- Evidence child/young person's GDD, learning disability or autism

### Please note:

A referral may be returned, rejected and /or signposted if:

- There is insufficient information on the referral form
- There is no evidence on the referral form of the child/young person having a learning disability;
- If it is unclear what is being asked of the children's learning disability team
- If the request can be met by other more appropriate services.

## REASONS FOR REQUEST

- Specify reason of referral (for example – sleep difficulties or behavioural concerns,) and what the parent's or child are hoping for change/improvement with.
- Describe what the problem(s) looks like for the child and how this impacts their daily living, and their family.
- Identify why the support needed cannot be met by universal or targeted services.

## HAS ANYTHING BEEN TRIED SO FAR

- Please demonstrate evidence of how this concern has been addressed prior to referral through mainstream or other specialist services.

## How can a Learning Disability or GDD be evidenced for a referral into the Children's Community Learning Disability and Behaviour Support service?

- Providing concise information from professional sources (such as Educational Psychologist, Paediatrician, or Speech and Language therapist) that shows how an individual child is affected in line with the descriptions above.
- A learning disability is different to a learning difficulty. This may affect just one area of development such as dyslexia (reading and the written word) or specific language difficulties.

- An Education Health Care Plan is not evidence of having a learning disability
- A sole diagnosis of ADHD is not a learning disability.
- A sole diagnosis of Autism is not a learning disability.

## **How can Autism be evidenced for a referral into the Children's Community Learning Disability and Behaviour Support service?**

To be eligible for the NAS EarlyBird or 'What Now?' parent programmes the child needs to have an Autism diagnosis. The evidence for this should be held by the parents in the form of a written report or can be requested from the child's GP or paediatrician.

Autism 'traits' does not meet eligibility criteria alone for our service.

If a child is already being assessed for autism but the necessary multi agency assessment has not yet been completed that child's parents could be eligible to attend an E-PATs programme, sleep or sensory workshop through a referral to the service. (There is additional guidance on support for families with a child experiencing sensory differences available if requested).