Buckinghamshire Community Nurses Team
Children/Young People with a Learning Disability

Leaflet for Professionals
If you require a translation or an alternative format of this leaflet please call the Community Nurses Team on 01296 566016
Who are we?

We are a county-wide team of Learning Disability and or Children’s Nurses registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) We are all experienced at working with families in the community. We aim to work with families, professionals and other agencies to improve health outcomes for children/young people (YP) with a learning disability.

How to make a referral to us…

Any professional who knows the family can refer to us. We are working towards a paper-less service and only receive referrals electronically through our secure email address. It is essential that all referrers obtain parental consent and YP consent if they are over 16 years old. Families with children/YP people who have already received a service from us within 6 months of discharge can self-refer back in to the team.

What can our service offer?

✓ Provide a Health Needs Assessment for each child/YP.
✓ Implement individual programmes with families which may include advice with continence promotion, behaviour difficulties, sleep management and health promotion.
✓ See children/YP in various settings to help us assess and understand which areas they need help with.
✓ We liaise with other professionals to help enhance children/YP overall experience of services.
✓ Ensure that children/YP with learning disabilities on our case load are safeguarded.
✓ Signpost families to resources and other services.
✔ Provide families with advice and guidance in relation to health promotion
✔ Support child/YP and their families through transition into adult services.

Eligibility…

✔ We are commissioned to work with any child/YP aged 0 - 19 years who is formally diagnosed as having a learning disability.
✔ Children/YP with learning disabilities who have continence issues who are aged between 5- 16 years.
✔ The child/YP must be registered with a General Practitioner within the Buckinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
✔ Where a child/YP is placed in a residential setting, that this is for no more than 38 weeks per year.

What will happen next?

When we receive a referral we will discuss this at our regular team meetings, we will then telephone the parent /carer to complete an initial assessment. This will provide us with more information and ensure that the referral is appropriate for our team.

We will write to professionals to confirm receipt of referral.

As a team we will then agree and prioritise each child’s/YP level of need and a named nurse will be allocated to the family. The named nurse will put together evidence based strategies with the family and work with them for a period of up to six months, review progress and then look to discharge from the team.
What is a learning disability?
Different types of learning disability can differ hugely. Someone with mild learning disabilities may be able to live independently with minimal support, whereas someone with severe and profound learning disabilities may require 24 hour care, and help with performing most daily living skills.

A learning disability is defined by the Department of Health as a “significant reduced ability to understand new or complex information, to learn new skills (impaired intelligence), with a reduced ability to cope independently (impaired social functioning), which started before adulthood”.

A learning difficulty constitutes a condition which creates an obstacle to a specific form of learning, for example dyslexia is classed as a learning difficulty, in that it only affects an individual’s relationship to the processing of information, usually manifested in problems with reading, writing, and spelling but does not affect the overall IQ of a child/young person, so is very different to a learning disability.

Sometimes, the term ‘Global Developmental Delay’ (GDD) is used to describe a learning disability. GDD describes a condition that occurs between birth and the age of 18 which prevents a child/YP from reaching key milestones of development like learning to communicate, processing information, remembering things and organising their thoughts. The word “delay” may also suggest that the child/YP may “catch up” we ask that you check with the child/young persons Paediatrician as to whether this is the case or whether the child/YP has a life long learning disability.

Children/YP with autism spectrum disorder can also have a learning disability, however this should not be assumed to be the case. Children/YP with autism may require minimal support to lead an active life through to those children/YP requiring lifelong, specialist support but in order to meet our criteria they must be diagnosed as having a learning disability.
Data Protection

We keep electronic records on all the children we see. Families are able to access these records under the rules of the Data Protection Act 2018.

How to contact us:
Children & Young People’s Services
The Hartwell Wing
Mandeville Road
Aylesbury
Buckinghamshire
HP21 8AL
Team Lead
Tel: (01296) 566016 (referral enquiries)

or

Children & Young People’s Services
The Hale Acre Unit
Amersham Hospital,
Whielden Street,
Amersham
Bucks
HP7 0JD
Tel: (01494) 732975