

### Infection prevention & control message

Please keeping your hands clean:

- Use the hand sanitiser where available.
- Wash your hands well at every opportunity



**Buckinghamshire Healthcare**  
NHS Trust

## Where are we?

We are based at the following addresses:

### Children & Young People's Services

The Hartwell Wing  
Stoke Mandeville Hospital  
Mandeville Road  
Aylesbury  
Buckinghamshire  
HP21 8AL

**Tel: (01296) 566014**

### Team Lead

Tel: (01296) 566016 (referral enquiries)  
Mobile: 07827 982198

### Children & Young People's Services

#### Hale Acre Unit

Amersham Hospital,  
Whielden Street,  
Amersham  
Bucks.  
HP7 0JD

**Tel: (01494) 732975**

[www.buckshealthcare.nhs.uk](http://www.buckshealthcare.nhs.uk)

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

## Parent/Carer information leaflet

If you require a translation or an alternative format  
of this leaflet please call the Community Nurses  
Team on 01296 566016

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## Who are we?

We are a county-wide team of nurses who are either on the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) Register as Learning Disability or Children's nurses. We are all experienced at working with families in our community.

We aim to work with families, professionals and other agencies to improve health outcomes for children and young people with a learning disability.

## What can our service offer you?

- We complete a Health Needs Assessment for each child or young person we see.
- We enable families to work on difficulties they are experiencing with their child/young person's behaviour, toileting or sleep through an individual care plan.
- We see children/young people in various settings to help us understand which areas they need help with.
- We liaise with other professionals to help enhance your child/young persons overall experience of services.
- Sign post you to other resources and services.

Sometimes, the term '**Global Developmental Delay**' (GDD) is used to describe a learning disability. GDD describes a condition that occurs that prevents a child 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 person's Paediatrician as to whether this is the case or whether the child has a life-long learning disability. Children/YP with **autistic 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.

## 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

- Be aware of the individual needs of children and young people with learning disabilities and how to safeguard them.
- Provide families with information and advice.
- Support the child/young person and their families through transition into adult services.
- On request from schools we work with groups of children /young people around growing up and health promotion.

## How referrals are made to us...

Any professional who knows your family can make a referral to us on your behalf. If you would like more information please contact us using the numbers on page 8.

## Eligibility...

- ✓ We are commissioned to work with any child/young person aged 0 -19 years who is formally diagnosed as having a learning disability.
- ✓ Children/young people aged between 5-16 years who are diagnosed with a learning disability who have continence difficulties – usually referred to us via their Health Visitor.
- ✓ The child/young person must be registered with a General Practitioner within the Buckinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
- ✓ We can work with children/young people placed in residential settings but this must be for no more than 38 weeks per year.

## What will happen next?

When we received your referral an appointment for an initial assessment will be arranged with you, this may be either a face to face or a telephone consultation. This will provide us with more information and ensure that the referral is appropriate for our team.

We will then agree and prioritise each child's/young person's level of need, a named nurse will then be allocated to work with you on an individualised care plan, enabling you to work on strategies to help with your child/young person. We usually plan to work with families for about six months, we will then review progress and look to discharge.