

Information for professionals and families caring for children and young people with complex health needs

Children and Young People's Continuing Care



Our Team Philosophy

To enhance quality of life, empower and support families caring for children and young people with complex health needs.

Who are the team?

We are a team of highly experienced and skilled children's community support workers who provide nursing care under the direction of our registered children's nurses.

What does the team do?

The team provides individualised packages of care to support parents in caring for their children with complex health needs in the home environment.



What is continuing care?

Continuing care is a service provision for children and young people, up to 18 years, who require additional health support due to needs arising from disability, accident or illness that cannot be met by existing universal or specialist services alone.

The National Framework for Children and Young People's Continuing Care 2016 supports the Clinical Commissioning Group in determining if a young person's needs are such that they require a package of continuing care.

Continuing care is part of a wider package of care, agreed and delivered by collaboration between health, education and social care and is part of the integrated Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) process.

The process for continuing care consists of three phases:

- The assessment, undertaken by a health assessor;
- Decision making by a multi-agency panel to determine whether eligibility criteria is met;
- Development of a care package.

Could I have a personal health budget instead?

Yes. Families of a child or young person eligible for continuing care have a 'right to have' a personal health budget, covering the part of their care package, which would be provided by the NHS.

Who is eligible?

The Decision Support Tool sets out children's needs across 10 domains, divided into different levels of need.

The nominated health assessor will use their skill, expertise and evidence based professional judgement to consider what, for each domain, is over and above what would be expected for a child or young person of that age.

Who can refer?

Referrals can be made by all professionals and families of children with complex health needs.

What happens next?

After identification that a child or young person may have a possible continuing care need, a referral is made to the Children's Continuing Care Team.

- Consent of the young person or parents will be sought, including the sharing of personal information between different professionals and organisations involved in their care.
- A nominated health assessor will undertake an assessment, using the Decision Support Tool, to make a summative judgement of the child or young person's needs and make recommendations for presentation at the decision making forum.

- The multi-agency panel decides if eligibility criteria is met and whether there is a continuing care need. This decision should be given to the family within six weeks.
- The package of care is then shaped by the child's or young person's needs.
- The package of care will be reviewed three months after it has commenced and annually thereafter, or if there is a significant change in their needs.

A child or young person's eligibility for continuing care may change as their needs change.

What can you expect?

- Experienced, skilled and appropriately trained staff
- Clear guidelines and risk assessments
- Provision and maintenance of all necessary equipment
- Reliability, flexibility and continuity of care
- Professionalism

Transition

Screening for adult NHS Continuing Healthcare should be undertaken with an initial assessment at a suitable point when aged 16-17 years.



Additional Information

Hertfordshire's SEND Local Offer is a one-stop shop for information, support, services and activities available for children and young people with special educational needs, and their families.

Telephone the customer service centre on **0300 123 4043** or visit:
<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/local-offer/about-the-local-offer.aspx>

Further Reading

Children and young people's continuing care national framework - for more information concerning the guidance for clinical commissioning groups when assessing the needs of children and young people (0 to 17 years) whose complex needs cannot be met by universal or specialist health services:
www.gov.uk/government/publications/children-and-young-peoples-continuing-care-national-framework

Children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND):

www.gov.uk/children-with-special-educational-needs/extra-SEN-help

Continuing Care Team

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