

Referrals

Our services will accept referrals for children and young people attending the following special schools:

Ellen Tinkham	Oaklands Park
Mill Water	Bidwell Brook
Pathfield	

Referrals for children and young people attending other specialist schools or attending mainstream provision (or attached units) with a Statement of Special Educational Needs (or education or healthcare plan equivalent) will be consider in terms of the child's level of learning disability.

A referral is appropriate if there are significant concerns about the child's development, health, wellbeing or behaviour and these are having a significant impact on the child's functioning at home.

A referral can be made to the Devon Single Point of Access (SPA) by parents or carers, or any relevant professionals. Please email TSDFT.DevonSPA@nhs.net

Get in touch

If you are unsure or need to discuss further, please contact the team as we are always happy to help.
Devon Specialist Children's Community Service, The Learning Disability Team, 1A Capital Court, Bittern Road, Sowton Industrial Estate, Exeter, Devon, EX2 7FW

www.childrenandfamilyhealthdevon.nhs.uk

For further assistance or to receive this information in a different format, please contact the department which created this leaflet.

PATIENT INFORMATION

Devon Children's Learning Disability Team

Information Guide for Parents

Welcome to Devon Children's Learning Disability Team
We provide a range of services for children who have or who may have additional needs. This booklet is a guide for parents to our service and how to make a referral.

Who we are

Our service is made up of learning disability nurses and clinical psychologists. We work alongside health, education, and social care professionals, including social workers, occupational therapists, children's nurses, and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS).
We provide advice and support to child, young people and their families, and to other professionals. We work with children who have profound and severe levels of learning disability (including children who additionally have autism), supporting them in accessing all aspects of their daily life and their local community.

Who do we work with?

The Children and Young People's Learning Disability Team makes provision for children and young people up to 18 years of age, who have a registered GP and who have a learning disability.

A traditional definition of a learning disability can be taken from the Department of Health document *Valuing People: a new strategy for Learning Disability for the 21st Century (2001)* includes the presence of:

- A significantly reduced ability to understand new or complex information and to learn new skills.
- A reduced ability to cope independently
- An impairment that started before adulthood with a lasting effect on development.

Moderate, severe and profound learning disability is defined by the World Mental Health Organisation as an IQ of 50 or less.

However, it is important to remember that IQ describes only one aspect of a child or young person and does not 'capture' the whole child.

How we can support

Some of the main areas we offer support around include:

• Sleep

All our learning disability nurses have been trained via the Sleep Scotland charity to become sleep counsellors, enabling them to provide counselling for parents and carers of children with a learning disability. Sleep counsellors help parents and carers by giving them specific tried and tested behavioural and cognitive techniques to adapt their child's night-time behaviours.

• Healthcare needs

This includes sexual health, attending health appointments, epilepsy, providing visual support, and desensitisation around blood tests, inoculations, dental care, hospital stays, health passports, and 14+ health assessments etc.

• Behaviour

We can offer support and advice around challenging behaviour, including physical or verbal aggression, self-harm, pica (a tendency to eat substances other than normal food) and smearing. We can offer support around routines and communication, as well as devising personalised behavioural plans or interventions, risk assessment and functional analysis.

• Independence skills

We can offer support and advice around developing new skills, personal hygiene, continence, sexual health and puberty,

• Other

We provide disability psychotherapy assessments, support around bereavement and emotional health, and support for families' adjustment of their child's diagnosis.