



One Minute Guide



What is the Children's Complex Care Needs Team (CCNT)?

The Complex Care Needs Team (CCNT) are a social work team who provide support for children and young people where:

- The disability or complex health need has a substantial and long-term effect on their ability to carry out day-to-day activities; and
- There are significant difficulties in meeting needs within their family, broader support networks or through local universal provision.,

The team supports children 0-18 years of age and works with children under all areas of social work; Child In Need, Child Protection, Children in Care and children who are within the legal arena.



What does the team do?

The Complex Care Needs Team will undertake social work assessments on any child that meets the specific criteria and is determined to sit within the team.

Referrals are considered and it is determined whether the child is in need of short breaks assessment and/or other support, whether there are safeguarding concerns, and any appropriate actions identified at that point.

The social work assessment is referred to as a 'children and family assessment' which covers:

- **The child's story** assessing areas such as health, education, emotional and behavioural development, identity, family and social relationships and social presentation.
- **The adult's story** assessing the parents' ability to meet the young person's basic care needs, ensuring their safety, emotional warmth, stimulation, guidance and boundaries and stability.
- **Wider family and environmental factors** assessing family history and functioning, wider family support, housing, employment, income, family social integration and community resources.

The Complex Care Needs Team work to the same statutory requirements as other social work teams. In line with legislation and safeguarding procedures social workers will work directly with young people who require support and protection which include children subject to care proceedings. They also work with children who are looked after by the local authority. Many of the children within the complex care needs team also access short break services.

Should an assessment result in a recommendation for a short break service this will be presented at the Short Breaks Panel. This is a multi-agency panel to determine if they are appropriate, proportionate to the needs as assessed and in line with the child's additional needs or disabilities. This package of support would be reviewed regularly to ensure the needs of the child or young person are being met.

n.b. Transport is not offered as part of the short break; in exceptional circumstances the local authority will consider providing transport, but parents and carers must evidence that they are unable to do this. Transport will be reviewed regularly within the Short Breaks Panel.



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Who works in the complex care needs team?

Social workers: Social Workers in the team have experience working with young people who have complex needs which include communication difficulties and/or challenging behaviours. Social workers complete child and family assessments to determine what level of intervention or support a young person and their family may require.

Children and family workers: There are three children and family workers within the Complex Care Needs Team which social workers can refer to for them to complete interventions with a family which includes work such as: sleep work, behaviour management, routines and boundaries, supervising family time of young people who reside in the care of the local authority.

SEND Family Support Workers: This is a pilot (currently funded until December 2025) within the WF10, WF8 and WF11 areas of Wakefield and can be referred to by schools or the Children First Hub. The workers visit families within their homes and carry out a "whole family" SEND Family Assessment to assess the impact of SEND within the family and identify any areas of need. They will signpost families to relevant services to meet the family's needs, and may call meetings with other professionals open to the family including schools. They will try and complete their intervention within three visits.

SEND social care practitioner: The workers within this role provide the social care advice into Education, Health Care Plans through a needs assessment for families who are not supported by Wakefield Children Young People Service (where a family is already open to a service, that practitioner will complete this advice).

The practitioners ensure that parents are aware of services that are available to them and make relevant referrals as needed. This is not an on-going intervention and once the assessment is completed will be submitted to SENART (Special Educational Needs Assessment & Review Team) as part of the statutory assessment process. Referrals are received from SENART at 'stage 2' of the EHC needs assessment.

How are referrals made to CCNT?

Referrals to CCNT are made by parents, carers and professionals through the Integrated Front Door (IFD). IFD will discuss referrals with whoever is making the referral to obtain further information about the young person and their family. They will often seek consent from parents / carers to share and obtain information from other professionals supporting the family.

If the Integrated Front Door do not feel that the young person's needs can be met through universal or targeted services due to their complex needs a conversation will take place with the CCNT Manager, Advanced Practitioner or Service Manager to determine if threshold is met for intervention through CCNT.

Following a referral to CCNT a social work assessment will be initiated with a visit to the family taking place within five days of the initial referral.

Key Contacts or for more information

For more information, you can contact the complex care needs team on:

complexcare@wakefield.gov.uk

or call the office on, 01924 302124

