**CCG Funding Arrangements**

**Children and Young People (CYP) 0-18 years or 0-25 with SEND**

**High Cost, Low Incidence Care**

Children and young people with disabilities, and their parent/carers may need to access a wide range of support from various agencies including health, social care and education.

Across Dudley, all healthcare and Council services provide personalised support to address the needs of those with special educational needs and/or disabilities, based on the specialist knowledge of professionals working within these service providers.

This guidance relates to children and young people (CYP) aged from Birth to 18 years or Birth to 25 years for those who have a special educational need and/or disability (SEND) who require additional funding to address a need such as provision.

This guidance formalises the processes by which specialist funding may be accessed. It is intended that this guidance will allow for transparency in the decisions made and ensure the funding process is more efficient. It outlines the process for requesting, providing and monitoring provision and is intended as guidance only. There will be individual circumstances that are not covered by this guidance.

The CCG considers requests for resource to support a child or young person’s health needs via a variety of forums.

**High Needs Funding**

* CCG representatives are core members of the High Cost and Post 16 Commissioning Panel (HCPC) who have the responsibility to resource additional support required to meet identified health needs. (Sec. 3 NHS Act 2006).
* The HCPC Panel is a joint panel (education, health and social care) designed to ensure that the level of support for young people in transition and post 19 is appropriate and that EHC Plans are sustainable and affordable for the longer term.
* The scope of the HCPC panel is to robustly review all high cost funding applications to ensure value for money is assured to meet identified needs.
* HCPC is an advisory panel that considers funding applications for education placements that are over £60,000 p.a that have been referred to it by the SEND Panel in order to secure Special Education Provision and require a decision under the Children and Families Act 2014.
* The HCPC Panel may also receive applications for post 16 Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan funding directly for ongoing placements that require the Council to consider the Special Education Provision for a young person/ young adult.

**Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs)**

* The purpose of an EHCP is to make special educational provision to the meet the SEN of the child or young person and to secure the best possible outcomes for them across education, health and social care.
* The CCG has a duty under the Children and Families Act 2014 to collaboratively commission services for CYP with SEND with local partners and ensure that commissioned services are mobilised to participate in the development of the EHCP.
* CCG representatives are core members of the SEND decision-making panel and pivotal in supporting the CCG in meeting its statutory duties in relation to CYP with SEND.
* Health provision required to meet the health needs identified within the EHCP will be met via existing contracts with services or via specific commissions where bespoke care is required.
* The Designated Medical Officer/Designated Clinical Officer (DMO/DCO) team are the point of contact for the Council, educational settings and parent/carers seeking advice.

**NHS Continuing Care (CC) / NHS Continuing Health Care (CHC)**

**NHS Adult CHC**

* Continuing Health Care is care provided over an extended period of time to a person aged 18 or over to meet physical or mental health needs which have arisen as a result of disability, accident or illness. NHS Continuing Healthcare is a package of continuing care arranged and funded solely by the NHS. (National Framework for NHS Continuing Healthcare and Funded Nursing Care, 2018 revised, Department of Health).
* An individual who needs “continuing care” may require services from NHS bodies and/ or from the Council. Dudley Integrated Health and Care NHS Trust, on behalf of Black Country and West Birmingham Clinical Commissioning Group, has a responsibility to ensure that the assessment of eligibility for NHS Continuing Healthcare takes place within 28 days from the completion of the CHC checklist and in a timely and consistent fashion.
* Further information regarding the process for CHC can be found here:-

<https://www.blackcountryandwestbirmccg.nhs.uk/your-health-services/health-services/continuing-healthcare>

<https://www.dihc.nhs.uk/find-a-service/continuing-healthcare-chc>

**NHS Continuing Care (CC)**

* ‘Continuing care’ is a term for a tailor made package of care which is defined in the National Frameworks (2016) as a “package of care which is arranged and funded by a relevant body for a person aged 17 or under to meet needs which have arisen as a result of disability, accident or illness.”
* It is essential that all professionals understand how children and young people’s continuing care is assessed; that it is commissioned differently to adults’ NHS Continuing Healthcare and NHS-funded Nursing Care; and how transitional arrangements from children’s Continuing Care to adults’ NHS Continuing Healthcare are addressed.
* The National Framework for Children and Young People’s Continuing Care (2016) sets out principles and processes for its implementation and provides national tools to be used in the assessment. It describes the process for assessing, deciding and agreeing packages of continuing care for children and young people, whose needs cannot be met by universal or specialised services. Continuing care is not available to children or young people whose care needs can be met appropriately through existing universal or specialist health services.
* When providing support for a child or young person with a SEN/D in Dudley, the CCG and the Council will work together to assess and coordinate a jointly-agreed package of continuing care and, in doing so, inform the health needs of the child’s and young person’s Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).
* The CCG is responsible for assessing and commissioning continuing care packages to meet the reasonable health care needs of children and young people aged 0-17 years of age who are eligible for continuing care. The needs are identified following a full continuing care assessment using the Decision Support Tool (DST) as stipulated in the National Framework (2016). The Continuing Care Nurse Assessor will present the outcome to the Continuing Care Panel for agreement of eligibility and ratification. The panel will consider the evidence and reach a decision as to whether the child or young person has a continuing care need. Following this agreement, the resource allocation tool will be used to assist with assessing the proportion and level of resource required to meet the assessed need. This will be commissioned and the arrangement of provision coordinated through consultation with the child/young person and their family; promoting personalisation. This includes the option to access a personal health budget,
* Further information regarding the process for CC can be found here:-

<https://www.blackcountryandwestbirmccg.nhs.uk/your-health-services/health-services/continuing-healthcare>

<https://www.dihc.nhs.uk/find-a-service/continuing-healthcare-chc>

**Specialist Equipment**

* An assessment will be undertaken by professionals managing the healthcare needs of the CYP. Depending on the equipment being considered, the assessment will take place either at home, educational setting or in a specialist clinic.
* Where an equipment need is identified for the home, the professional undertaking the assessment should complete a Funding Request form and submit it to [**dihc.cypfundingrequest@nhs.net**](mailto:dihc.cypfundingrequest@nhs.net)for consideration.

**Short Breaks**

* The CCG jointly commissions residential short breaks for CYP 0-18 years (up to 19 years if still in education) with SEND. More information about Short Breaks can be found here:-

<https://www.dudley.gov.uk/residents/care-and-health/dudley-disability-service/children-with-disabilities/short-breaks/>

**How professionals raise these requests with the commissioner**

* The key designate present at the relevant funding panel i.e. EHCP Panel/HCPC, has the delegated responsibility to appropriately commission services to meet the health needs identified. It is expected that existing contracts within Dudley are able to meet health needs however should bespoke provision be identified specific commissioning arrangements will be made.
* Any service identifying a gap in commissioning and an unmet need for a specific CYP can submit the information to:- [dihc.ehcpadvice@nhs.net](mailto:dihc.ehcpadvice@nhs.net)

**How are these requests scrutinized?**

* The CCG has a statutory duty to ensure health care provision is accessible, evidence based and cost effective. All requests for funding are reviewed in terms of the requirement to meet the assessed need and must demonstrate sound clinical evidence.
* Local and National policy will be utilised in the decisions making process and all outcomes clearly documented. All decisions made are transparent, fair, equitable and open to scrutiny.

**How the CCG makes a decision on such requests**

* The CCG will use a variety of means togain assurance for the request being made prior to any decision. This will include gathering professional advice and reports, the undertaking of assessments and monitoring of best and current evidence-based practices.

**How the CCG uses peer review to consider requests**

* The DMO/DCO represent Dudley at the Black Country SEND Health Forum. High cost placements/packages are an agenda item and local service delivery models are discussed. Key delegates of the CCG also chair a Regional CYP Continuing Care Peer Network.

**How the arrangements for SEND dovetail with the process of continuing care assessments**

* Arrangements for CC assessments and SEND are detailed in the CYP CC policy. The policy can be accessed here:-

<https://www.dihc.nhs.uk/find-a-service/continuing-healthcare-chc>