

Patient information

Integrated Community Paediatric Services

Continuing Healthcare Team

What is continuing care?

Some children and young people (up to age 18), may have very complex health needs.

These may be the result of: congenital conditions, long-term or life-limiting conditions, disability, serious illness or injury.

Children and young people with such complex needs may need additional health support which is not routinely available from GP practices, hospitals or in the community. This additional package of care is called continuing care. The Integrated Care Board, which is responsible for arranging for health services locally, has responsibility for assessing children and young people to see if they need a package of continuing care.

Who is eligible?

Any child or young person up to their 18th birthday who has a complex health need may be eligible. When a young person reaches 18, the adult NHS Continuing Healthcare arrangements apply. There are significant differences between children and young people's continuing care and NHS Continuing Healthcare for adults.

Although a child or young person may be in receipt of a package of continuing care, they may not be eligible for NHS Continuing Healthcare. The ICB will assess any young person in receipt of continuing care when they reach 17, to see if they are likely to be eligible for NHS Continuing Healthcare when they turn 18.

How can we access continuing care?

A referral can be made by any professional or carer who feels a continuing care package may be required. When a child or young person is referred for an assessment, the Integrated Care Board (ICB) might first check if they are likely to need a full assessment.

A health assessor will then collect evidence of the child/young person's needs, drawing on the advice of health and care professionals. A national framework provides guidance, and a set of categories of needs to support decisions on whether or not a child has a continuing care need. An important part of the assessment is to capture the preferences of the child or young person and their family.

The assessment will look at the current care being provided but a decision on whether or not a child or young person has a continuing care need is based on the nature of their needs, rather than the care available, or whether or not they have a particular condition.

Who decides? What happens next?

The health assessor will make a case to a panel of experts, who decide based on the evidence, and the recommendation, if the child or young person has a continuing care need.

A decision is usually made within 6-8 weeks from referral. Depending on the decision, a package of care is then agreed; some of this care may be provided through existing services; some may need to be specially arranged. The ICB will keep the package of care under regular review to ensure the developing child or young person's needs continue to be supported. A child or young person's eligibility for continuing care may change as their needs change.

To assist with communicating with you we have a text messaging and email service available. To use this we require your consent. Please ensure that we always have your correct contact details.

Policy for missed appointments

We ask that if you are unable to attend appointments that you contact the service as early as possible to cancel or rearrange. If you do not attend a planned session and you have not notified us that you need to cancel it, we may discharge your child back to the referrer.

Contact us

Ipswich Office, Children's Continuing Care Team, Allington Clinic, 427 Woodbridge Road, Ipswich, IP4 4ER **Tel: 01473 321284**

Further information on our services can be found on our website:

www.wsh.nhs.uk/icps

If you have any queries or concerns with any aspect of your child's care that cannot be resolved with your nurse, please contact the Service Lead on the main office numbers.

If you feel you are unable to discuss your concerns in this way please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS), Email: PALS@wsh.nhs.uk
Tel: 0800 917 9673 or 01284 712555, (24 hour answerphone facility)

Clinical research

West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust is actively involved in clinical research. Your doctor, clinical team or the research and development department may contact you regarding specific clinical research studies that you might be interested in participating in. If you do not wish to be contacted for these purposes, please email info.gov@wsh.nsh.uk. This will in no way affect the care or treatment you receive.

Accessibility

If you require this leaflet in a different format, please contact the patient advice and liaison service on 01284 712555 or email PALS@wsh.nhs.uk

If you would like any information regarding access to our Trust services and facilities, please visit the website for Accessible: <https://www.accessable.co.uk/organisations/west-suffolk-nhs-foundation-trust>

