

Learning Disabilities and Mental Health (LDMH) team - Referrals

This document outlines the CAMHS Learning Disabilities and Mental Health Team (LDMH) referral criteria. It is also intended to help professionals completing referrals to the team.

Referral Pathway

We accept referrals of children with a GP in Sheffield, up to 18 years old. Our pathway starts with a consultation meeting, which brings together the family and all the professionals working with them. This enables us to ensure that we offer appropriate and effective input.

Professionals from any service can contact us to ask for a consultation, though if direct work is required we will need a formal referral from CAMHS, Community Paediatric or a Ryegate Children's Centre professional.

Referral criteria

We accept referrals to the service regarding children and young people who:

- Are up to 18 years of age
- Are a resident in Sheffield or registered with a Sheffield GP
- Have moderate, severe or profound learning disabilities (IQ below 50).
- Display significant challenging behaviour or mental health problems that require the input of a specialist provision. Challenging behaviour is defined as behaviour of such significant intensity, frequency or duration that it impacts upon the young person's safety and the safety of others, reduces their quality of life and results in restrictions or limitations upon their access to community resources.

Exclusion criteria

Requests for the service will not be accepted for children and young people with:

- Mild learning disabilities
- High functioning Autistic Spectrum Disorders (i.e. Average or above average intelligence)
- Issues that are school based only; where family does not require support – these should be supported by Educational Psychology and Behavioural Support Services
- Singular issues (e.g. sensory issues) which are not part of a presentation of challenging behaviour

Further information: What is a learning disability?

The World Health Organisation states that a learning disability is 'a significant impairment of intellectual functioning' and of 'adaptive/social functioning'. A learning disability affects the way a person understands, learns and remembers new information. It also impacts upon the way a person communicates, manages independent living skills and social situations.

A learning disability is a lifelong condition, which affects a person across all areas of their life and is present from birth. It is not the same as a learning difficulty which tends to refer to a specific difficulty with a skill such as reading or writing.

Factors which may indicate a moderate/severe/profound learning disability

- Record of significantly delayed development/difficulties with social functioning and daily living
- Presence of all three criteria for Learning Disabilities, i.e.:
 - Impairment of intellectual functioning/social adaptive functioning
 - A range of information presenting a picture of difficulties in several areas of function, not explainable by another diagnosis
 - Impairment of cognitive functioning before the age of 18 years old

Factors which may indicate no significant learning disability

- Successfully attend mainstream education without support
- Gained qualifications (e.g. GCSE's, A Levels)
- Able to complete complex tasks such as manage personal finances, social life and use public transport unaided
- Have a recorded IQ above 50

NB: The presence of specific intellectual disorders (impairment in reading, impairment in written expression, and impairment in mathematics), Cerebral Palsy, Autism or ADHD, or brain injury alone **does not** indicate the person has a learning disability.

What to do in an Emergency/Crisis

The LDMH team is unable to respond to emergencies. Those who require an **immediate** response should contact one of the below:

*If you or someone else is in **immediate risk** of serious harm or injury, you should call the emergency services by dialling 999*

9am to 5pm - Speak to the Sheffield CAMHS team on 0114 226 2348

Out of hours - after 5pm and before 9am

If you are under 16 years old please attend Sheffield Children's Hospital Emergency Department (0114 271 7000)

If you are 16 years old or over please attend Sheffield's Northern General Hospital (0114 243 4343)