

Referral Pathway into the Surrey County Council Countywide Learning Disability and Autism Service:

1. **To be eligible for a service from our team a person must meet the eligibility criteria as defined by the Care Act 2014.**
 - The adult's needs for care and support arise from or are related to a physical or mental impairment or illness and are not caused by other circumstantial factors.
 - This includes if the adult has a condition as a result of physical, mental, sensory, learning or cognitive disabilities or illnesses, substance misuse or brain injury.
 - As a result of the adult's needs, the adult is unable to achieve two or more of the outcomes specified in the regulations and outlined in the section '[Eligibility outcomes for adults with care and support needs](#)'.

There is no hierarchy to the eligibility outcomes – all are equally important.

As a consequence of being unable to achieve these outcomes, there is, or there is likely to be, a significant impact on the adult's wellbeing,

determining whether:

The adult's needs impact on at least one of the areas of wellbeing in a significant way or the cumulative effect of the impact on a number of the areas of wellbeing means that they have a **significant** impact on the adult's overall wellbeing.

2. **In addition to the above a person must also have a recognised diagnosis or either a Learning Disability or Autism as defined below:**
 - **Learning disability**, which is defined as:
 - An Intellectual disability (intellectual developmental disorder) with onset from birth or early childhood (0-5 years) that affects communication, daily functioning, learning and understanding.
 - A Learning Disability affects the person's whole life for all of their life and cannot be medically cured or treated.
 - Where a diagnosis of a learning disability may involve a range of I.Q tests, the outcome score from those tests give an I.Q for Learning Disability of under 70.
 - Another defining characteristic of an adult with a learning disability is that they often require support to meet their health and care needs from a specialist multidisciplinary team.
 - For a diagnosis of LD **all 3** of the criteria must be met:
 - ***I significant impairment of intellectual functioning (IQ < 70);***
 - ***I significant impairment of adaptive/social functioning; and***
 - ***I age of onset before adulthood.***
3. Adults with a "learning difficulty" are not eligible for support from the service. A learning difficulty is defined as:

- A condition that may affect learning but not overall intellectual functioning.
- Affects specific parts of a person's life i.e. dyslexia,
- A condition which can be improved and corrected with aids and adaptations

Or

4. Autistic Spectrum Disorder, which is defined as:

- A lifelong disability present in the early developmental years of childhood (0-5 yrs).
- However, unlike learning disability, Autism can be identified quite late and its differential diagnosis is more complex. Mental health conditions that are frequently comorbid with autism or may present in similar ways.
- **Characteristics may include:**
 - Deficits in social-emotional reciprocity, for example, failure to initiate or respond to social interactions.
 - Deficits in nonverbal communicative behaviours used for social interaction, ranging, for example, from poorly integrated verbal and nonverbal communication; to abnormalities in eye contact and a total lack of facial expressions and nonverbal communication.
 - Deficits in developing, maintaining, and understanding relationships, ranging, for example, from difficulties adjusting behaviour to suit various social contexts; to difficulties in sharing imaginative play or in making friends; to absence of interest in peers.
 - Restricted, repetitive patterns of behaviour.
 - Insistence on sameness, inflexible adherence to routines.
 - Highly restricted, fixated interests that are abnormal in intensity.
 - Hyper- or hyperreactivity to sensory input or unusual interest in sensory aspects of the environment (e.g., apparent indifference to pain/temperature, adverse response to specific sounds or textures, excessive smelling or touching of objects, visual fascination with lights or movement).
- **The characteristics listed are a selection from the DSM 5 diagnostic criteria – people do not need to have all of these characteristics to get a diagnosis. Below is a useful link detailing the current diagnostic criteria:**
- [http://www.researchautism.net/conditions/7/autism-\(autism-spectrum-disorder\)/Diagnosis](http://www.researchautism.net/conditions/7/autism-(autism-spectrum-disorder)/Diagnosis)
- We require proof of diagnosis before someone can access our service- i.e a diagnostic report, statement etc

Those residents who meet the eligibility criteria as defined by the Care Act but **do not** meet the Learning disability or Autism Criteria should be referred to the relevant Locality Team.

Those who do not meet the Care Act eligibility Criteria will be signposted to other services.