**Eligibility and access to assessment and support for Disabled Children and Young People in Suffolk:**

Suffolk has a graduated approach to support for Disabled Children and Young People in line with the Suffolk Thresholds Matrix.

If your child is deemed to have eligible needs using the threshold matrix, there could be a number of outcomes to help and support you and your child. This can range from support from universal services, which are the services all children may need to access to meet their developmental potential, through to support from a range of agencies following a section 17 child in need assessment.

All disabled children and young people under the age of 18 are able to have a section 17 child in need assessment. The nature of the assessment will be proportionate to their presenting needs. The MASH will use the threshold matrix to support the process and identify where universal, targeted, specialist services are required.

A section 17 child in need assessment will be completed to inform what level of support is required to meet need, where this is requested or where the MASH considers this to be appropriate, and the family agree.

A section 17 child in need assessment identifies if there is a need for Social Care support, or whether other services are appropriate to meet identified needs.

The Disabled Children and Young Peoples Team are a specialised team offering Social Work support to children and young people from age 0-17. The team have a threshold criteria which will be referenced by the MASH and other social work teams internally, to agree when it is appropriate for a child or young person to be allocated to the team. A child or young person with a disability and a presenting social care need, who does not meet the criteria for the Disabled Children and Young Person’s Team, can be supported through the wider children’s social care service.