**Criteria for the ISCAN Social Care Team**

**1. Introduction**

The Children Act 1989 places a duty on Children’s Services to provide and / or co-ordinate the provision of services to all disabled children. The overall provision of these services is a responsibility across Children’s Services and associated health and voluntary sector services.

**2. Definition**

A child with a disability will be defined as having:

*‘A permanent severe/profound learning and/or physical disability and or profound sensory impairment’*

In addition:

* *The child may be vulnerable because they have ongoing health needs arising from their disability, which require nursing care and supervision.*
* *The child may have a physical dependency in terms of his/her day to day care needs, which substantially impact upon the family.*
* *The child may have severe behavioural or emotional difficulties arising out of his/her disability.*

Severity of Learning Disability

*Profound and Severe:*

A profound and multiple learning disability (PMLD) is when a person has a severe learning disability and other disabilities that significantly affect their ability to communicate and be independent.

A child or young person with PMLD may have severe difficulties seeing, hearing, speaking and moving. They may have complex health and social care needs due to these or other conditions.

Children and young people with PMLD need a carer or carers to help them with most areas of everyday life, such as eating, washing and personal care, for their whole lives.

*Moderate:*

Some children and young people with a moderate learning disability can communicate verbally and look after themselves but may need a bit longer than usual to learn new skills. Others may not be able to communicate at all and have other disabilities as well. Some children and young people with a moderate learning disability may be able develop skills to live independently, while others need help with everyday tasks, such as washing and dressing, for their whole lives.

**3.** **Criteria**

The ISCAN Social Care Team will work with children (aged between 0-18) who are defined as having a disability if they have impaired abilities in one or more of the following areas: learning, communication, sensory or physical.

This includes:

* Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC with associated Profound/Severe learning disability /behavioural difficulties).
* Profound/Severe/Moderate learning disability (child must attend a specialist education provision. This is inclusive of children who may be in a mainstream setting with high levels of SEND dedicated provision).
* Profound/Severe physical disabilities. This is inclusive of children who may be in a mainstream setting with high levels of SEND dedicated provision.
* Complex health and medical care needs that may meet the threshold for a Continuing Health Care assessment.
* Profound/Severe Visual Impairment.
* Profound/Severe Hearing Impairment.
* The ISCAN Social Care Team will work with those families where it is identified that support services are required that cannot be provided at a universal level.
* Should a child be assessed as requiring Early Help intervention in line with Tameside’s threshold at level two with *(some cases at level three)*, they will be allocated a Children with Disabilities (CWD) Intervention Worker to identify a plan of support.
* Should a child be assessed as requiring intervention in line with Tameside’s threshold at level three or four, they will be allocated a Social Worker to identify a plan of statutory intervention and support.
* The ISCAN Social Care Team provide a through care service with those children and young people with disabilities and their siblings who are subject to care proceedings, those who may require permanent placements away from their birth families and those who are looked after by agreement with their families. Where the ISCAN Social Care Team have progressed sibling groups through proceedings, discussion will take place with the Looked after Childrens Team post proceedings to transfer non-disabled siblings where appropriate.

The ISCAN Social Care Team will not take referrals based on the following:

* *Moderate physical disabilities (if minor adaptions are required this can be accessed via a single service referral to ISCAN Occupational Therapy)*
* *Speech and language difficulties*
* *Minor sensory impairment (except for equipment assessment and provision)*
* *Educational problems*
* *Emotional and behavioural problems including children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)*
* *Mild to moderate developmental delay*
* *Asperger’s Syndrome – unless linked to other Disability*
* *Oppositional Defiant Disorder*
* *Attachment Disorders*
* *Mild Chromosonal Deletion Disorder*

In circumstances as outlined above, these cases would usually be supported by universal services i.e Health and/or Education. Should any of the above be prevelant and threshold is met for Social Care intervention in line with safeguarding this would be allocated within the Safeguarding Locality Teams.