

Council For Disabled Children – Health Jargon Buster

This glossary explains some words and terms surrounding the health system that you might come across.

A

Advisory Group: A group of people who give suggestions and help to people or organizations, usually about a particular subject or activity.

Annual Health Check: For adults and young people aged 14 or above with learning disabilities who need more health support. It helps doctors find health needs that they may not usually see.

B

Behaviour that challenges: A person's behaviour can be defined as "challenging" if it puts them or those around them (such as their carer) at risk or leads to a poorer quality of life. It can also impact their ability to join in everyday activities.

C

Care, Education and Treatment Review (CETR): Carried out by an independent panel of people, CETR's aim to improve the care people with learning disabilities and/or autism receive.

Care plan: A document that explains all the help and support a child or young person living in care gets. The Plan will be agreed with the child's parent or the young person and may be contained within a patient's medical record or maintained as a separate document.

Care Quality Commission (CQC): Its job is to make sure that all care provided meets government standards of quality and safety and it inspects services.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS): Services provided by the NHS for children and young people up to the age of 18 who need support with their emotions, their behaviour or their mental health

CAMHS Tier 4 placement: Where a child or young person is placed in an acute hospital setting for assessment and treatment of emotional, behavioural or mental health difficulties.

Children's Social Care: Children's social care services support children with the greatest need – children who are disabled, who have to be protected from harm or who need to be placed in residential or foster care.

Clinician: A doctor, nurse or therapist having direct contact with patients rather than being in a laboratory.

Commissioning: Designing and buying services, like physiotherapy, for groups of people.

Commissioner: A person whose job is to understand what people need to keep them healthy and then buy it using money from the government.

Communication Passport: A document that brings information about how a child communicates together in one place, that can help different professionals understand a child's communication method.

Community: A group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common.

D

Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC): A government department in charge of policy on health and adult social care matters in England. It oversees the NHS.

Diagnosis: The finding out of an illness by looking at the symptoms that a person has.

Discharge: The point at which the patient leaves the hospital and either returns home or goes on for more health care such as rehabilitation.

Drugs: Also called a medication or medicine, a drug is used to treat, cure, prevent, or diagnose a disease or to promote well-being.

Dynamic Support Register: A list of children, young people and adults with a learning disability and autistic people considered to be at risk of admission to a mental health hospital. Also called an "At Risk Register".

E

Easy Read: The use of pictures alongside text, giving the essential information in a clear format.

Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment: An assessment of the education, health and care needs of a child or young person who may need an EHC plan.

Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC Plan): A document which sets out a person-centred plan for a child or young person who needs special educational provision. The plan details their education, health and care needs and the help they need to meet these needs and to support the achievement of outcomes and aspirations identified with the child or young person and their family.

Emotional health: Your overall emotional and psychological condition. It does not mean being happy all the time, instead it means how well you can handle and process your emotions.

Employment: Having paid work. It can be full or part time.

F

Forum: A place where people can share their views on a particular issue. Forums can be meetings in groups or online.

G

General Practitioner (GP): A local doctor who treats patients with minor illnesses and refers those with serious conditions for specialist support.

Government: The group of people with the authority to make decisions for the country. In the UK, the government is elected by a vote called the General Election.

H

Health Education England: The body that is in charge of training the people who work for the NHS.

Healthy: In good physical and/or mental condition.

Hospital: A place where medical, surgical and nursing care is provided for sick and injured people.

Hygiene: keeping yourself and your surroundings clean, especially in order to prevent illness or the spread of diseases.

I

Integrated Care Systems: A collaboration of NHS organisations, local government and other bodies across a local area, with shared accountability for the financial and operational management of local health and care services, and a shared aim of improving the health and wellbeing of the local population.

Immunisation: Protecting people against disease or infection, usually by injecting the person with a needle.

Infection: When very small organisms enter your body, that shouldn't normally be there. An infection does not always cause symptoms we may notice.

Injection: The use of a special medical needle to put a liquid, usually medicine, into a patient's body.

Key Working Service/Keyworker: Keyworkers work with children, young people and families to make sure families are listened to and services meet their needs in a joined-up way, and they have the support they need at the right time. The NHS has said children and young people with a learning disability and/or who are autistic and at risk of being admitted to a mental health hospital will have a keyworker by April 2024.

L

Local Area Emergency Protocol (LAEP): A meeting for young people, families and professionals who need to urgently discuss what support is needed to try and keep young people living at home rather than in a hospital. Where a Care Education and Treatment Review may be difficult to set up due to short time scales, level of risk and the need for urgent action, a LAEP should take place.

Learning Disabilities and Autism Programme: A national plan to develop community services for people with a learning disability and/or autism who display behaviour that challenges, including those with a mental health condition.

Local authority (LA): An organisation responsible for the planning and delivery of public services, including education and social care services, in a particular area.

M

Medication/Medicine: A drug that is used to treat or prevent disease.

Mental health: Similar to Emotional Health, but includes other things such as our thinking, stress and how we make choices.

Mental Health Act – The main law that covers the assessment, treatment and rights of people with a mental health disorder. It currently allows children and young people with a diagnosis with autism and/or learning disability can be detained for assessment and treatment[kw1]

N

NHS: Short for the National Health Service. All the doctors, nurses and other health professionals who work in hospitals and health services in your area work for the NHS.

NHS England: The part of the NHS that only looks after and runs healthcare in England. Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have their own organisations.

National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE): Develops guidance and quality standards for health and social care services. These include decisions on what the NHS is legally obliged to provide, and quality standards that set out what high quality, cost effective treatment looks like in specific areas. They are used to inform commissioning decisions, measure performance and help patients understand what they can expect from services.

O

Operating room: A room in a hospital where surgical operations are performed.

Operation: Performed by a surgeon, it is used to investigate or treat healthcare issues.

P

Pain-killer: A drug that is designed to stop pain that a person is feeling.

Participation: Taking part in something to achieve a goal. Having your say on the decisions that affect your health care

Patient: An unwell person who is being looked after by a doctor or nurse.

Patient Online: An online service which patients can use to book appointments with their GP, order repeat prescriptions, and view their records.

Personal Health Budget: Money that people can use to spend on things to help them improve their health condition.

Personalisation: Used by doctors and commissioners to make sure the needs and conditions of each patient are met when they are treated.

Physical health: How well our bodies are functioning. Mental and physical health are often very closely linked, with each affecting the other.

Positive Behaviour Support: Person-centred and structured approach to supporting people with a learning disability and/or autism who display challenging behaviours.

Prescribe: When a doctor or other health practitioner gives you information about what medicine to take, how, and for how long.

R

Reasonable Adjustment: Changes to the environment at school, work, or in a service you need like a GPs surgery, that allow people with disability to take part fully.

Resources: General term for medical information, contacts, and information relating to healthcare.

S

Social Services: What the Government provides to help people who need things, such as education, housing and healthcare.

Social worker: A trained person who helps give out social services to the people who need them.

Specialist: Someone who focuses on one area, and is very knowledgeable on things to do with it.

Steering group: A group of people whose job is to decide the direction a project is going in

Summary Care Record: An electronic summary of every patient's records that are held by the NHS.

Surgeon: A highly trained doctor whose job is to carry out surgical operations on patients

T

The Association of Directors of Social Services: A member organisation that aims to improve social care services.

Transforming care programme: A partnership between the Government, the NHS, and other organisations that makes sure that people with a learning disability, autism or both get the best possible care.

U

Unhealthy: Can mean either the state of being unhealthy, where your body is not functioning properly, or can refer to a lifestyle which will cause your body to not function properly.

Unnecessary Admissions Avoidance- NHS and Government policy to stop too many autistic children and young people and/ or those with a learning disability from being admitted into inappropriate settings or remain in these settings for too long. Sets the rules for Care Education and Treatment Reviews and Dynamic Support Registers.

V

Vaccination: treatment with a vaccine to produce immunity against a disease, see immunisation for similar description.

W

Waiting room: A specific area that patients are asked to stay in while they wait to be seen by a healthcare professional.

Ward: A room or area of a hospital where people with the same specific condition are treated.

Wellbeing: A complete definition of health that includes physical health, mental health and social happiness.

Wound: An injury to a person, usually caused by a cut or blow, and also usually involves the breaking of the skin.