###  Integrated Children and Young People Occupational Therapy Service

### Referral Criteria

**HEALTH PATHWAY: A referral for assessment and therapy will only be accepted if it meets the following criteria**

1. The child is aged between 0-19 years (up to their 19th birthday).
2. **The reason for referral must relate to an identified functional concern**, such as difficulty with using cutlery, dressing, riding their bike, participating in PE lessons, handling play items (e.g. building with Lego) or using school tools (such as scissors). Definition of function=age-appropriate daily activities (consider child’s ability to participate in their childhood occupations of self-care, play/leisure and school)
3. The primary reason for referral is for assessment, therapy, programmes and advice. Occupational therapy (OT) reports will be written following assessment. Copies of previous reports can be provided to agencies that require an OT advice while a child is waiting to be seen.

Please note we do not accept referrals which just say ‘fine motor difficulties’, ‘sensory processing difficulties’ or ‘DCD/Dyspraxia’. Referrals need to identify specifically how these difficulties are impacting on the child’s ability to perform their daily activities (i.e. functional concerns).

We do not accept referrals for *purely* ‘handwriting’ difficulties where no other functional concerns are identified. If it’s purely a handwriting problem (with no other deficits) then we would expect a school to be able to provide handwriting intervention.

**Integrated Seating Pathway: A referral for assessment for supportive chairs**

1. The child is aged between 0-19 years (up to the end of the school year when they turn 19).
2. The reason for referral must relate to difficulties in accessing activities of daily living due to unsuitable seating at home, nursery or school.

\*OT service does not provide assessment and advice on manual handling in school

**SOCIAL SERVICES PATHWAY: A referral for assessment for equipment and adaptations for home**

NELFT children’s social services pathway occupational therapists provide specialist assessment for disabled children and young people who are residents of Waltham Forest and under the age of 19. They must have a permanent and substantial disability which has an adverse impact on their ability to carry out normal day to day activities within the home environment. Referrals are accepted from families as well as professionals involved in their care.

1. The child must be a child in need as defined by the Children’s Act. The **reason for referral must relate to an identified functional difficulty**, such as unable to access the toilet or bathing facility.
2. The primary reason for referral is for assessment in the home environment to assess need for equipment and/or adaptations.

Social Services OTs can assess for:

* Specialist equipment for bathing, seating, toileting, changing and dressing, sleeping
* Equipment to help movement from one place to another and manual handling eg hoists and slings
* Adaptations to property such as ramps, specialist lifts, level access showers

Occupational Therapy intervention cannot be offered:

* As an alternative to adult supervision or where it would be reasonable to expect those with parental responsibility to provide a safe environment in relation to developmental norms e.g. standard garden fencing; window locks/restrictors; stairgates; cupboard locks.
* As an alternative to strategies and programmes aimed at managing challenging behaviour.
* As a means of achieving general household repairs or maintenance which under normal circumstances would be the owner/landlord’s responsibility e.g. replacing rotten window frames; broken windowpanes; repair to driveway/paths.
* For needs related to housing overcrowding issues