

Youth Justice SEND Case Study  
30.3.2017

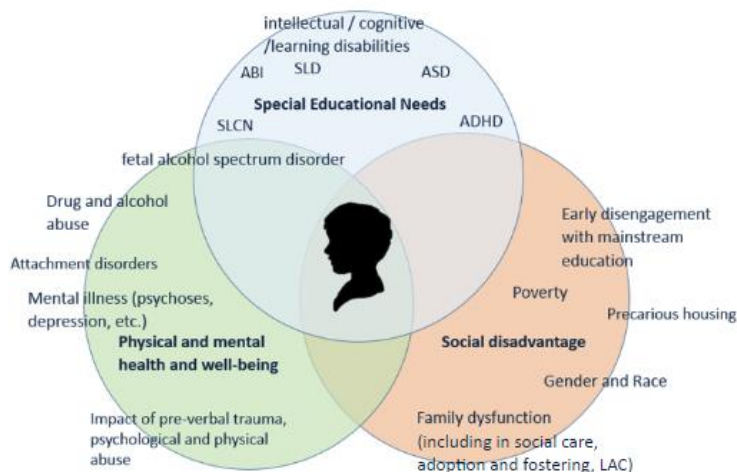
## Assessing for Complex Needs Gateshead YOS Using the Troubled Families Assessment Framework

### Key Points

- Gateshead use the Troubled Families model to assess every young person and their wider family against the six key criteria
- As a result, a clear accountability structure around the needs of the child can be created, including SEN support, but within the context of complex needs
- This approach will only work if parents “buy into” the process (“It’s not us, it’s the kid”)
- 90% of cases assessed in this way are found to have complex issues

Gateshead Youth Offending Service have compiled a number of case studies around SEN identification challenge and outcomes.

As a service, they are acutely aware of the “complex needs” agenda, and how special education needs can conflate with structural disadvantage and mental/physical health issues.



To this end, Gateshead use the Troubled Family model to assess every young person entering the youth justice system and their family against the six criteria within the framework.

Special Education Needs can then be set against this context.

The six areas covered in the assessment framework are:

- **parents and children involved in crime or anti-social behaviour**
- **children who have not been attending school regularly**
- **children who need help**
- **adults out of work or at risk of financial exclusion and young people at risk of worklessness**
- **families affected by domestic violence and abuse**
- **parents and children with a range of health problems**

Reports are distributed five-ten days after assessment.

**Contact Details**

Debbie Cooper  
Team Manager  
Gateshead Youth Offending Service  
Gateshead Civic Centre  
Regent Terrace  
Gateshead  
NE8 1HH  
E: [DebbieCooper@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:DebbieCooper@gateshead.gov.uk)

---