Children’s Speech and Language Therapy Service

Document written by: Karl Bower – Therapy Manager, Children’s Speech and Language Therapy & Paediatric Dietetics

Date: August 2018

Version 1.1

To be reviewed by: August 2019
What do speech and language therapists do?
Speech and language therapists (SLTs) provide life-improving treatment, support and care for children and adults who have difficulties with communication, eating, drinking or swallowing.

SLTs assess and treat speech, language and communication problems in people of all ages to help them communicate better. They also assess, treat and develop personalised plans to support people who have eating and swallowing problems.

Using specialist skills, SLTs work directly with clients and their carers and provide them with tailored support. They also work closely with teachers and other health professionals, such as doctors, nurses, other allied health professionals and psychologists to develop individual treatment programmes.

The Speech & Language Therapy Team is made up of qualified speech and language therapists, therapy assistants and administrative and clerical staff. Speech and language therapists (SLTs) are registered allied health professionals. Allied health professional is how we describe trained professionals who aren’t doctors or nurses. All the therapists are registered with the national regulatory body, the Health & Care Professionals Council (HCPC) which maintains an online register of all Speech and Language Therapists meeting the required standards.

All therapists are members of the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT).

Here is a video that describes the role of Speech and Language Therapists.

Further information about Speech and Language Therapy as a profession can be found Here.

WHAT IS SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY FOR CHILDREN?

The Children’s Speech and Language Therapy Service supports children and young people in Doncaster and Bassetlaw aged 0-16 years who have difficulties with communication, or with eating, drinking and swallowing. We also support young people aged 16 – 19 years old who have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) who are attending schools in Doncaster and Bassetlaw.

The Children’s Speech and Language Therapy Service provide assessment, diagnosis and treatment for children and young people with speech, language, communication, and feeding and swallowing difficulties.

The majority of difficulties fall into the following areas:
- understanding what is said to them
- expressing themselves
- talking clearly (saying speech sounds)
- stammering
- eating and drinking

The service sees children and young people in clinics, hospitals, schools, nurseries and other early years settings, and at home.
The Doncaster and Bassetlaw Children’s Speech and Language Therapy Service operate an open referral system. This means anyone can refer a children and young people, you do not need to ask a professional to do this for you. However, we do not accept referrals without parents’ knowledge and permission.

You can self-refer by downloading and completing a referral form and sending it to our address above. To access the service children and young people must:
- have a Doncaster or Bassetlaw GP
- be aged 0-16 or 0-19 if they have an Education Health Care Plan and attending a Doncaster or Bassetlaw School
- meet the threshold for accessing targeted Speech and Language Therapy care, for further information please refer to the Service Document which can be downloaded here.

Information for Parents / Carers
We are happy to take a referral over the phone from the person who holds parental responsibility, please contact us at our administrative base on 01302 644958.

Information for Professionals
If you wish to make a referral you can do so using our referral form and return it to the address provided at the end of the form. Please note that we are unable to accept referral forms that are incomplete or do not contain a signature from the child’s and young persons parent / carer.

Referrals for a feeding / swallowing assessment
If the child or young person has a feeding / swallowing difficulty, the referral needs to be made from a GP or Consultant or a professional with consent from a GP or Consultant.

To download a referral please, please visit this page.

WHEN SHOULD I REFER?

ICAN Progress Checker is an online guide that can help you understand what to expect at each developmental stage. The checker has been developed by ICAN, a national charity that leads the way on supporting and promoting children’s communication skills.
WHAT CAN I EXPECT DURING MY FIRST APPOINTMENT?

The appointment will last for approximately 45 minutes, longer for complex / specialist assessments.
- A speech and language therapist (SLT) will usually start by talking to you about your child's early history and development and gathering some information about your concerns. Depending on the age of your child and the type of difficulty that they have they will do a number of different tasks and activities. For some children, particularly younger ones, the assessment may be done through the SLT playing alongside your child, or watching them play.
- The therapist will talk to you about your child’s development. You will have the opportunity to discuss any concerns you may have about your child’s communication skills
- During the session you may ask any questions about your child’s speech and language development
- At the end of the session the therapist will discuss with you the best ways of supporting your child

What can you do to help?
Please:
- Bring along your child’s health record (red book)
- Give examples of what your child is saying, and/or sounds which are difficult for him/her
- Think about how your child communicates with you if he/she is not using real words, e.g. pointing, or using gesture

What happens next?
At the end of the session the therapist will advise you on one of three courses of action:
- Your child’s communication skills are in line with their overall development or may be requiring minimal advice. No further appointments are necessary.  
  
  OR

- Your child requires some specific activities and their development will be closely monitored and reviewed
  
  OR

- Your child would benefit from regular therapy input.

Important information
If you are unable to keep your appointment please inform the service as soon as possible so that this session can be offered to another child.

To ensure that all appointments and correspondence reach you, please notify us of any changes to your surname, home address, telephone number or GP.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinical Pathways</th>
<th>Location of Service</th>
<th>Core Activity Provided</th>
<th>Non-Core Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Complex / Special Needs** - providing support for children with complex communication difficulties / disorders | **Under 5s** Child Development Centre Educational Placement Home | Assessment  
Therapy - targeted face to face, indirect (advice and strategies, training to implement a therapy approach e.g. PECS)  
Reports - following assessment, assessment for EHCPs, Annual review, discharge, safeguarding  
Meetings – MDT, Case discussion, safeguarding, IEPs when communication is a **significant / primary concern**  
Liaison - Health (HV), Education (EP), Social Care | Training (not directed to a specific child)  
Advice / Report to school when applying for additional funding  
Programmes - Parenting  
- Early Bird  
- Early Skills Groups  
Completion of DLA forms |
| **Over 5s** Educational Placement, including mainstream and special schools | | | |
| **Outpatients** - providing support for children experiencing mild to moderate levels of difficulty with their communication | Community Outpatient Outpatient Clinics | Assessment  
Therapy - targeted face to face, clinical notes  
Reports - outcome of initial assessment to source of referral, EHCP assessment, discharge, safeguarding  
Meeting - Attendance at annual reviews when communication is a significant primary concern, safeguarding  
Liaison - Health, Social Care | Training  
Advice / Report to school when applying for additional funding  
Completion of DLA forms  
Reports as requested  
Reports for schools  
Visit to schools & school programmes  
Written contribution to IEPS |
| **Specialist Outpatients**  
- providing support for specific conditions impacting on communication | Hearing Impairment | Outpatient Clinics  
Educational Placement  
Home | Assessment  
Therapy - targeted face to face, clinical notes  
Reports - outcome of initial assessment to source of referral, EHCP assessment, discharge, safeguarding | Training (not directed to a specific child)  
Advice / Report to school when applying for additional funding  
Completion of DLA forms |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Stammering | Outpatient Clinics |  | Meeting - Attendance at annual reviews when communication is a significant primary concern, safeguarding  
Liaison - Health, Education, Social Care |
| **Diagnostic – Autism**  
- providing assessment for the Autism Diagnostic Pathway | Under 5s | Child Development Centre  
Educational Placement  
Home | Assessment  
Reports - outcome of assessment, EHCP assessment, safeguarding |  |
| | Over 5s | Child Development Centre  
Outpatient Clinics  
Educational Placement  
Home | Meeting - Attendance to diagnostic panel meetings  
Liaison - Health, Education, Social Care |
| **Youth Offending**  
- providing assessment and support to child known to the Youth Offending Service | Youth Offending | Youth Offending Service  
Educational Placement  
Home | Assessment  
Reports - outcome of assessment, EHCP assessment, safeguarding  
Liaison – Youth Offending, Health, Education, Social Care  
Training & Clinical Supervision |  |
CONTACT DETAILS

Telephone Enquiries: 01302 644958

Postal Address: Children’s Speech & Language Therapy Service
    Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
    Chequer Road Clinic
    Chequer Road
    Doncaster   DN1 2AN

Outpatient Clinics: Child Development Centre, Doncaster Royal Infirmary: Tel 01302 642633/4
    Child Development Centre, Bassetlaw District General: Tel 01909 500990 ext 2313
    Retford Hospital: Tel 01777 863366
    Chequer Road Clinic, Doncaster: 01302 644958

For further information, please contact:
Karl Bower – Therapy Manager for Children's Speech and Language Therapy & Paediatric Dietetics
    Tel: 01302 644204 Email: karl.bower@nhs.net

Harrier Heffron – Speech and Language Therapy Team Lead for Special Needs Services
    Tel: 01302 642633/4 Email: harriet.heffron1@nhs.net

Jane Wilson – Speech and Language Therapy Team Lead for Outpatient and Specialist Outpatient Services
    Tel: 01777 863366 Email: jane.wilson47@nhs.net

REFERRAL FORMS

Speech, language and communication difficulties

Eating and drinking (not behavioural difficulties)
USEFUL WEBSITES

Local services that work closely with Children’s Speech and Language Therapy

**Doncaster:**  
- Children’s Physiotherapy Service  
- Children’s Occupational Therapy Service  
- Health Visiting Service  
- School Nursing Service  
- Child and Young Person Mental Health Service  
- Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Local Authority - Special Educational Needs  
- Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Local Authority – Educational Psychology  
- Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Local Authority – Local Offer

**Bassetlaw:**  
- Children’s Physiotherapy Service  
- Children’s Occupational Therapy Service  
- Health Visiting & School Nursing Service  
- Child and Young Person Mental Health Service  
- Nottinghamshire Local Authority - Special Educational Needs  
- Nottinghamshire Local Authority – Educational Psychology  
- Nottinghamshire Local Authority – Local Offer

Organisations that support speech, language, communication and feeding

**Talking Point**  
A website supported by The Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists and national charities, ICAN and Afasic to provide a website that offers information to both professionals and parents. This website also includes the ICAN Checker, an online guide that can help you understand what to expect at each developmental stage. The checker has been developed by ICAN, a national charity that leads the way on supporting and promoting children’s communication skills.

**ICAN**  
ICAN is a national children’s communication charity. Their website provides resources for both parents and professionals.

**Afasic**  
Afasic is a charity that provides parents and families with information, advice and support about speech, language and communication needs.

**Children’s Trust**  
A charity that works and supports children with complex needs.

**Nasen**  
A national organisation which aims to promote education and training for people with Special Educational Needs.

**NAPLIC**  
A national organisation for teachers, speech and language therapists and other professionals, which aims to promote and increase awareness of speech, language and communication needs.

**The Communication Trust**  
The Communication Trust is a national organisation that aims to support children and young people to develop their best possible language and communication skills by providing resources and training to parents and professionals. The website has lots of resources that schools can download and use.

**Words for Life**  
The Words for Life website has been developed by the National Literacy Trust for parents to give you an idea of what communication milestones your baby and child might reach as they grow. There are also ideas for activities you can do together to help your children develop their skills.

**British Stammering Association**  
The British Stammering Association offers help and information on stammering. The website has sections for young people, parents, teachers and health visitors.

**National Autistic Society**  
The National Autistic Society provides information and support to people with autism, their families, and those who work with them. The website has sections for parents, carers and families, as well as for professionals.