

Haringey is the 13th most deprived borough in England and 4th most deprived borough in London. The predicted SLCN prevalence rates for Haringey children entering Reception each year are:

- 7% will have significant difficulties with speech and/or language - approximately 223 children
- 1% will have the most severe and complex SLCN - approximately 32 children
- Over 50% will have speech and language skills that are significantly lower than their peers, linked with disadvantage, this is at least a further 1500 children

# Buy-in Speech & Language Therapy

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However the numbers of children identified with speech, language & communication needs (SLCN) and known to the Speech & Language Therapy (SLT) service are significantly lower than this. Research indicates that children with undetected or untreated SLCN are vulnerable to lower levels of literacy and poor educational attainment with estimates of 50–90% experiencing reading difficulties (Conti-Ramsden G 2004). There is also an increased risk of youth offending in young people with undetected or untreated SLCN with 60% of young offenders having SLCN (Bryan et al 2004)

Evidence indicates that resolution of SLCN before the age of 5.6 years increases the likelihood of developing good reading and spelling (Bishop and Adams 1990). Data from a research project carried out in Haringey schools in 2013 indicates that children who receive speech and language therapy make progress (<http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/0265659016654954>)

## What can the Whittington Health Buy-in SLT service offer?

Speech and Language Therapists have a distinct role in assessing, planning, delivering and evaluating support for children and young people with SLCN. *Joint working with established links to health and education professionals is integral to our work and in Haringey we work within the framework of the team-around-the-child and experience in the local area.*

As part of any enquiry we would talk to you about what you feel is needed in your school and develop a package to match your requirements. This could include work at a universal, targeted or specialist level, for example:

- Assessment for children in KS2
- Bilingual Assessments with an interpreter
- Classroom audits
- Coaching for learning support assistants
- Delivery of parent workshops
- Delivery of the Small Talk programme in nurseries
- Development of a communication policy
- Intervention for children who do not meet the current service criteria (all Key stages)
- Setting up and running language groups
- Skills development for teaching staff
- Supporting staff to identify and overcome barriers to learning and assistance with curriculum differentiation

- Top up sessions for NHS clients for both language and speech
- Training for staff in screening children for SLCN
- Training in specialist courses such as Elklan, Makaton Bilingualism or bespoke insets e.g. Developing effective communication skills in the classroom

## The Haringey SLT Team

The schools team is made up of Speech and Language Therapists who are employed by Whittington Health who have been through a rigorous recruitment process (comparable to Safer Recruitment) and who have the appropriate qualifications, professional registration, indemnity insurance and the clinical skills to work in schools.

The team includes specialists in autism, complex needs, stammering, specific language impairment, eating and drinking disorders, bilingualism, and emotional and behavioural difficulties. The specialists maintain an up to date knowledge of developments in their area of expertise and disseminate information on research findings to ensure that the SLT practice of the whole team is evidence based. Specialists also provide second opinions for children with the most complex difficulties.

Therapists have access to training, supervision and mentoring and use the most up to date specialist assessments, therapeutic approaches and resource materials.

The team is managed by highly experienced clinicians whose role is to liaise directly with schools in order to ensure that the service provided is as effective as possible.

## Feedback and Outcomes

What schools tell us:

*“what a pleasure it has been to work with x this term, she has been professional, very prompt in responding to any requests, sensitive and caring, she has replied to emails quickly and I have felt very supported in my role here”*

*“committed and knowledgeable staff”*

*“discussion about the students’ needs and strategies has been excellent”*

*“the training was spot on”*

In 2011/12 an audit of therapy targets showed that **93%** of children had progressed with therapy.

## What is the cost?

The annual cost is currently approximately £11,500 for 1 day a week

## How long does it take to get a SLT?

We need a term's notice to set up suitable staff.

## How can I get this?

As part of any enquiry we would talk to you about what you feel is needed in your school and develop a package to match your requirements. Please contact us to arrange this (details below).

## Who do I speak to get this?

Please contact Jo Davies (Primary) or Andrew Ralephata (Secondary), Lead Speech and Language Therapists for mainstream schools

- Jo Davies email: [joanne.davies5@nhs.net](mailto:joanne.davies5@nhs.net)
- Andrew Ralephata email: [andrew.ralephata@nhs.net](mailto:andrew.ralephata@nhs.net)

## Address

Mainstream Schools Speech and Language Therapy Service, Block G1, St Ann's Hospital, N15 3TH.

## Telephone

020 3224 4654