

## Summer Term 2019

### Speech and Language Therapy Newsletter for Bi-borough Early Years Settings

Welcome to Central London Community Healthcare (CLCH) Early Years Speech and Language Therapy Summer Term Newsletter. We aim to use the Newsletter to keep you informed of SLT service information and updates. We provide similar information to parents and carers via the Westminster Parent Forum. Additionally we will share a copy of the parent Newsletter with you for you to share with parents of children at your school.

*If you have any questions or suggestions for future Newsletter content we would be very pleased to hear from you. Additionally if you have any other ideas about how we, as a service, can engage with you, as stakeholders, please do let us know by contacting one of the SLT locality leads (email details in below table).*

#### SLT Overview

Research clearly shows that young children's early language and communication development is strongly related to school readiness at age four. Language skills are a critical area of development in young children. The SLT service is delivered on the well-researched principle that children's communication skills are best developed through interactions with the people who are most familiar with the children and young people, across functional everyday routines and activities and within their natural environments (e.g. everyday activities & routines: bath time, brushing teeth, mealtimes, shopping, playing, reading a book etc).

Speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) have been found to be the most common of childhood developmental difficulties. The SLT service has a strong focus on early identification and intervention and strives to support children and young people to reach their speech, language and communication potential, whatever their level of ability and preferred communication method.

#### SLCN Updates

Bi-borough commissioners and stakeholder partners are launching a wider whole system strategic approach to meeting children and young people's (CYP) speech, language and communication needs (SLCN). In line with the SEND reforms, this underlines the role of the wider multi-disciplinary team (MDT) in meeting children's SLC needs. Speech and language therapy is one part of the MDT, and for young children- early years settings play a key role as part of the wider MDT.

Research underlines the critical central SLC role of CYP's functional environment and key partners within this.

We continue to gather feedback from parents and carers and colleagues across early years, re; how the SLT service can help you to develop the skills and confidence to support children's early development within their functional everyday communication environment. We are keen to move towards a targeted, whole system partnership approach to identifying and meeting the needs of children with SLCN, through the development of a more graduated functional partnership offer to support the SLC Needs of all children.

The aim is to build confidence and skills across parents/carers and the early years workforce, to support and optimise the communication skills of all young children with SLCN. Please do let us know how we can support you.

## Healthy Early Years London

127 early years settings in the bi-borough are currently signed up to the Healthy Early Years London (HEYL) programme. This awards scheme recognises achievements in child health, wellbeing, and development; with four levels of awards (first steps, bronze, silver, and gold).

To achieve these awards, settings are asked to provide examples of how they have met certain criteria relating to their performance. For example, for SLCN they are asked to provide examples of strategies used to support children's speech, language, and communication development; when a member of staff has recognised that a child's communication was not following a typical pattern of development and what they did; as well as information and advice that they have provided to parents.

In addition to providing an audit tool by which settings can measure their performance against a range of indicators, Healthy Early Years provides a training programme which settings may attend to further support and improve practice. A Healthy Early Years Celebration Event is being held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2019 at the Small Hall, Kensington Town Hall; the SLT team will deliver a workshop to support practitioners to meet the criteria for the HEYL Bronze award. (Booking: <https://www.research.net/r/HEYSummerEvent2019> )

## **NEW: SEN SLT Telephone Advice Surgery**

We have a new telephone advice service for practitioners who would like advice from early years SLT around issues such as:

- Adult-Child Interaction strategies
- How to run universal and targeted communication stimulation groups
- Supporting early identification of speech language and communication needs
- Accessing SLCN training
- Follow up SLC advice following training
- How to create communication supportive environments
- Using visual supports in the environment
- When should a child be referred to SLT?

The telephone advice service will be available on the dates and times below by calling 0207 792 7788:

Tuesday 28th May                    1.30pm-5pm

Tuesday 25th June                    1.30pm-5pm

Thursday 25th July	9.00am-12.30pm
Monday 12th August	1.30pm-5pm
Monday 16th September	9.00am-12.30pm
Thursday 31st October	9.00am-12.30pm
Wednesday 13th November	1.30pm-5pm
Thursday 5th December	1.30pm-5pm

**Please note: we will *not* discuss individual children on the telephone advice service. If you have questions about a specific child in your setting please contact the child's clinic based SLT.**

**Reducing missed clinic appointments: Cancellations and Non-attendance are a key challenge for the Early years SLT service.** We are working hard as a service to reduce the number of missed appointments as these are costly and prevent children/parents accessing essential support. We are sending out text appointment reminders to all our families. Children will be discharged from the service if appointments fail to be attended. Therapy support cannot be effective if parents do not attend appointments so please do encourage families to prioritise SLT appointments, you are welcome to accompany parents to support goals in your setting.

**Digital Offer:** We continue to work with our Bi-borough Local Authority Colleagues to improve our digital offer. We are a key partner in the delivery of a Bi-borough online Communication Hub. Further updates around the roll out of Communication Hub resources will come in partnership with the Local Authority.

**Total Communication Offer:** The total communication offer continues to be reviewed with a range of approaches being trialled in different settings. A working group is currently meeting on a monthly basis to ensure the SLT offer complements other SLCN support offered by a range of services across the local area.

### **Early Years Speech and Language Therapy Training Offer 2019-20: Have Your Say!**

The Early Years Speech and Language Therapy Service offers a range of training sessions to early years settings in both boroughs. We are currently working with other services offering training in the early years, to co-ordinate our training offer to avoid duplication and ensure the effective use of local SLCN support. We would like your feedback to develop the training offer, and are keen to hear your suggestions for our September 2019-July 2020 offer. Please complete the survey via the link below. The survey should only take 5 minutes to complete: Have your say!

**Survey link:** <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/KTS5FSL>

### **Practitioner Training**

The Early Years' Service provides a range of training sessions for parents and practitioners. Details of all training sessions offered in Summer 2019 are listed [on https://www.clch.nhs.uk/services/speech-and-language-therapy-children](https://www.clch.nhs.uk/services/speech-and-language-therapy-children) and below:

**Communication Partners: Developing Language Skills in Small Groups Level 1**

Tuesday 18th June 2019 9.30am - 12pm Committee Room 3 and 4 Kensington Town Hall  
Hornton St, London W8 7NX

**Communication Partners: Developing Language Skills in Small Groups Level 2**

Monday June 24th 2019 9.30am - 12pm Committee Room 3 and 4 Kensington Town Hall  
Hornton St, London W8 7NX

**Supporting Conversations with Parents about Speech, Language and Communication Concerns**

Friday 21st June 9.30am - 12pm Committee Room 3 and 4 Kensington Town Hall  
Hornton St, London W8 7NX

It is essential to book onto ALL training courses. Please use the following email address: [clcht.slteytraining@nhs.net](mailto:clcht.slteytraining@nhs.net) to return your booking forms.

**List of Biborough SLT Service Leads**

Our current SLT Paediatric Leadership Group contact details are detailed below. If you have any specific queries then please get in touch with the relevant service lead. We would be pleased to hear from you.

Job Title	Name	Contact Email Address
Clinical Business Unit Manager and Professional Lead for SLT	Freda O’Driscoll	<a href="mailto:freda.o’driscoll@nhs.net">freda.o’driscoll@nhs.net</a>
Early Years SLT Locality Lead for Kensington and Chelsea	Elizabeth Lowton	<a href="mailto:elizabeth.lowton@nhs.net">elizabeth.lowton@nhs.net</a>
Early Years SLT Locality Lead for Westminster	Evi Typadi	<a href="mailto:etypadi@nhs.net">etypadi@nhs.net</a>
Early Years SLT Dysphagia Lead	Debbie Vint	<a href="mailto:debbie.vint@nhs.net">debbie.vint@nhs.net</a>