

## Summer Term 2019

### Speech and Language Therapy Newsletter for Westminster Schools Head Teachers

#### Introduction:

Welcome to Central London Community Healthcare (CLCH) 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.

An early years newsletter is produced for settings and workforce across early years.

*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).*

#### Service Updates

**New Service Specification from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019:** As shared at the recent primary heads meeting and SENCO forum, a new service contract is now in place for mainstream school, ARPs and Special School Speech and Language Therapy Services in Westminster and Kensington and Chelsea. The specification centres around supporting key local stakeholders and partners to deliver improved outcomes for all Children and Young People with SLCN SEND through the ongoing development of a whole system approach to meeting Speech, Language, and Communication Need SEND.

The SLT service will play a key role in supporting schools/ education staff to develop the skills and confidence to support the SLCN of CYP (across the range of SEND) in their daily functional communication environments. In mainstream schools this will be offered largely through an enhanced education staff training offer to benefit all CYP with SLCN. In special Schools and ARPs the speech and language therapists will be working closely with school senior management teams to continue to embed universal strategies within the settings.

Key new initiatives from the new specification [to support a wider whole system approach to SLCN include:](#)

- Creating a stronger targeted offer: each mainstream school will be offered 2 SLT visits per term dedicated to helping schools to develop targeted SLCN support to benefit all children with SLCN. This will help schools to create communication supportive environments for all children, with a particular focus on those with SLCN and improve the whole school graduated non-statutory SLCN support offer. Time will also be dedicated within special schools and ARPs to work with the schools to develop a whole systems approach to supporting SLCN within the setting.
- Reviewing CYPs Statutory SLT needs in line with the role of the SLT as part of the wider MDT to support the CYP SLCN. This will reflect a more flexible SLCN support offer and will always be in line with the CYP SLT clinical needs.
- Offering additional transition support for children starting in reception year and those moving on to Further Education provision to ease their transition between different types of provision. Historically children with SLC Needs, without statutory EHC plans would have been discharged from SLT at reception age or the end of their secondary schooling. Those with continuing SLCN will now receive

2 SLT transition support visits to support entry, helping education staff to feel confident in understanding the CYP SLC needs.

- A focus on the co-design of wider training sessions with parents, carers, service users and teachers to ensure a responsive & coordinated approach to addressing training across providers of training.
- Maintaining an online Communication Hub offering resources for parents, carers, service users and other professionals. The Communication Hub is new & being developed in partnership with the LA.

**SLT Learning Workshops:** Over the spring term, 277 members of school staff attended 35 SLT Learning Workshops covering 11 different topics. The SLT Learning Workshops are continuing in the summer term and details of upcoming Learning Workshops can be found here [SLT Learning Workshops](#). The Learning Workshops are an excellent, free CPD opportunity to promote embedded support for children with Speech, Language and Communication Needs. Please promote and encourage staff attendance at these Workshops.

The SEND reforms highlight the role of the wider multi-disciplinary team (MDT) in supporting children and young people's (CYP) communication/ SEND needs and the Learning Workshops are an ideal way for education staff to access training to develop skills and confidence in supporting all CYP with SLC Needs. Research underlines the central importance of functional goals, embedding and reinforcement of goals in the CYP daily functional naturalistic communication environment by, and with- those adults most familiar to the child. Education staff in schools therefore have a critical role in supporting successful SLC outcomes.

We are very keen to hear feedback on the Learning Workshops to shape our future training offer. We have created a survey to gather your feedback; this survey should be completed by all those attending training, senior leadership teams and SENCos. The survey will take less than 5 minutes [www.surveymonkey.com/r/XY667DJ](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XY667DJ)

In special schools and ARPs SLTs continue to plan and deliver- provision specific training in collaboration with school senior leadership teams.

**Service Level Agreements:** From September 2019 we will be looking to increase the number of Partnership Service Level Agreements CLCH SLT have with local schools in the area. Service Level Agreements are a great opportunity to receive SLT support and training that can benefit all children with SLCN, through universal and targeted SLC approaches (in addition to specialist SLT input where indicated within the SLA resource). If you are interested in having an SLA for academic year 19/20 please contact [ysanne.yeatman@nhs.net](mailto:ysanne.yeatman@nhs.net)

You also have the option to agree an SLA agreement in partnership with other schools to pool resources.

If you are considering this option but are not clear about the flexible use/ potential benefits of this SLA opportunity, Ysanne will be happy to put you in touch with schools who can share previous SLA experience.

**Parental Support:** As an education based SLT service we acknowledge there can often be challenges to keeping parents fully informed of SLT input. We are working hard to address this. Parents of children attending mainstream schools will be sent a letter this half term inviting them to book a telephone appointment in the summer holidays to speak with the Speech and Language Therapist who has worked with their child in school. This will provide parents with an additional opportunity to keep updated /informed.

Parents in special schools and ARPs are being invited to meet with the SLT in order to discuss the current focus of SLT for their child, and implementation of supportive strategies within the home environment. Over the next academic year we will be working in collaboration with schools to provide an increasingly joined up approach to supporting parents in special schools and ARPs.

### Training at QE2 Access and Inclusion Centre

We continue to work with our colleagues in the Access and Inclusion Teams to deliver training to support students with Speech, Language and Communication Needs. Training delivered at the Access and Inclusion Centre aims to upskill education staff to support all children with SLCN at the Universal, Targeted and Specialist Levels. Upcoming training includes Makaton as well as much more. The training offer can be found here: [Access and Inclusion Centre Training](#)

### List of SLT 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 & Professional Lead for SLT	Freda O’Driscoll	<a href="mailto:freda.o’driscoll@nhs.net">freda.o’driscoll@nhs.net</a>
Education Locality Lead for RBKC	Shivani Chotai	<a href="mailto:shivani.chotai@nhs.net">shivani.chotai@nhs.net</a>
Early Years SLT Locality Lead 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>
Interim Education SLT Locality Lead Westminster	Ysanne Yeatman	<a href="mailto:ysanne.yeatman@nhs.net">ysanne.yeatman@nhs.net</a>
Education Special Schools Lead	Bryony Schnadhorst	<a href="mailto:bryony.schnadhorst@nhs.net">bryony.schnadhorst@nhs.net</a>
Education Dysphagia and Complex Needs	Rachel Dickens	<a href="mailto:rachel.dickens@nhs.net">rachel.dickens@nhs.net</a>