

Summer Term 2019

Speech and Language Therapy Update: Westminster Parents Forum

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.

This Newsletter is one element of our commitment to communicate and collaborate with you regularly, providing you with regular local SLT information and updates. We are keen to continue supporting drop in sessions for parents, to respond to service queries and to attend Parent Forum meetings in person also.

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 contact details in table below).

Meeting Children's Speech Language Communication Needs (SLCN) and SLT Role Overview

Parents/Carers are the most important communication partners for young children. What parents say and do during their child's everyday activities and routines are the most important factor in meeting young children's speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) and supporting their children's wider development. The SLT can work in partnership with parents to help them to develop the skills and confidence to support children's functional communication development in the natural home environment.

The SLT's role is to work in partnership with those who have everyday contact with your child. In Early Years the focus of therapy is always to work through parents/carers. For school age children the SLT role is as part of the wider multi-disciplinary team, and in this context education staff are the key daily functional communication partners. The SLT role is to coach, train and support staff to effectively help your child.

The research underlines and supports the critical central role of parents/key adults in functional settings.

We are grateful for the support of Forums in sharing these messages with parents you have contact with

Service Updates

New Service Specification from 1st April 2019: A new service contract is now in place for Speech and Language Therapy Services in Westminster and Kensington and Chelsea. The specification centres around supporting key 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 Needs. Parents continue to play a key role in supporting CYP with SLCN.

Key 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 children with SLCN within the setting.
- Reviewing children/young people's(CYP) Statutory SLT needs, in line with the role of the SLT as part of the wider MDT to support the children/young people with 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 have been discharged from SLT at reception age or the end of their secondary schooling. They will now receive 2 SLT transition support visits to support entry aimed at ,helping education staff to feel confident in understanding the CYP SLC needs

Using text messages: Since the start of the year we have been working with the CLCH IT Team to increase our use of technology to support access to the SLT service. This push has come in response to parents / carers feeding back that they would like to receive texts about clinic appointments and also to receive letters and reports via email. We now send out confirmation texts when appointments are booked and reminder texts the day before an appointment. We are reviewing the use of email for letters and reports, if you would like to receive letters and reports via email rather than post please contact the service.

Reducing missed appointments in Early Years: We are continuing to work hard to reduce the number of appointments that are cancelled or just not attended. This is a key challenge within Westminster early years SLT service. For each missed appointment there is a child and family who have to wait longer to be seen. If you have any ideas please do contact Evi Typadi, Locality Lead. We think one way to help parents is to send text reminders.

Please note children will be discharged from the service if appointments are DNA'd. Therapy support cannot be effective if parents / carers do not attend appointments, in order to gain information and confidence to support children's communication development in their functional home environments. Please do help us.

New Initiatives

Parent / Carer Gateway Workshops: Westminster and Kensington & Chelsea have introduced parent/ carer workshops for families . This is the start of the first therapy block. The aim of the workshops is to support parent / carer's understanding of how they have the most important role in supporting the development of their child's communication skills. The SLT 's role is to work with parents to develop parental skills and confidence to support their child's communication development in their natural functional home environment. The SLT cannot effect support progress in your child's skills just through SLT attendance.

List of Leads

Our SLT Paediatric Leadership Group contact details are detailed below. If you have any specific queries or ideas then please do 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	freda.o'driscoll@nhs.net
Early Years SLT Locality Lead RBKC	Elizabeth Lowton	elizabeth.lowton@nhs.net
Early Years SLT Locality Lead Westminster	Evi Typadi	etypadi@nhs.net
Early Years SLT Dysphagia Lead	Debbie Vint	debbie.vint@nhs.net

Interim Education SLT Locality Lead Westminster	Ysanne Yeatman	ysanne.yeatman@nhs.net
Education Special Schools Lead	Bryony Schnadhorst	bryony.schnadhorst@nhs.net
Education Dysphagia and Complex Needs	Rachel Dickens	rachel.dickens@nhs.net

Speech and Language Therapy Training Offer

The Early Years' Service provides training for parents and practitioners. **Parents and practitioners are invited to attend training at any sites.** Unless specified no booking is required. **Please remember there are no crèche facilities available, so please do not bring your child with you.** Please contact your speech and language therapist at your local clinic if you require any further information about any of the training sessions. Details of these sessions can be found by clicking the link [here](#)

Drop In Sessions

Speech and Language Therapy will be attending the following Drop-Ins; you can attend these sessions to speak about your child's speech, language and communication skills with a member of the SLT team:

Portman Children's Centre, NW8 8SU:

Monday 24th June 9.00-11.45

Maida Vale Children's Centre, NW6 5XZ :

Monday 17th June 1.00 – 3.00

Monday 8th July 9.00 – 11.30

Queens Park Children's Centre, W6 7BJ

Tuesday 11th June 9.30-11.15

Tuesday 2nd July 9.30-11.15

