

A Guide to Health Services in Hartlepool

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0-19 Services (0-25 for Children and Young People with SEND) **(Health Visitors and 5-19 Public Health Nurses)**

0-19 services is the universal offer which refers to school nursing, health visiting and parenting support. This service is commissioned by the Public Health Team within the Local Authority.

Public Health Nurses offer universal support regarding the health and development of all children from 5 to 19 years of age. The service provides interventions on a one to one or group basis to increase resilience and reduce risk taking behaviours.

All practitioners deliver targeted support to families as needed and have a statutory duty to be involved with the child in need and any child protection procedures. The service also undertakes reviews and health assessments for Looked after Children.

In Hartlepool this service is provided by Hartlepool Borough Council.

More information can be found at:

<https://www.hartlepoolnow.co.uk/pages/home/information-&-advice/keeping-healthy/health-visitor>

Care Education & Treatment Reviews (CETR)

Care, Education and Treatment Reviews (CETR) are focused on children and young people whom either have been, or may be about to be admitted to a specialist mental health and/or learning disability hospital either in the NHS or in the independent sector.

The CETR bring together those responsible for commissioning and providing services (this will include nurses, social workers, education, commissioners and other health, education and social care professionals, alongside strategic commissioners where appropriate) with independent clinical opinion and the lived experience of children and young people and families from diverse communities with learning disabilities, autism or both.

The CETR is driven by the NHS but the involvement of local authorities and education services in the process and its outcomes is integral to improving care, education and treatment for children and young people with learning disabilities, autism or both and as well as their families.

In Hartlepool these reviews are led by the north of England Commissioning Support Unit (NECS) and supported by a multi-disciplinary team of representatives from Hartlepool & Stockton-on-Tees CCG, Tees, Esk & Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust and Hartlepool Borough Council.

More detailed information can be found at:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/learning-disabilities/care/ctr/care-education-and-treatment-reviews/>

and

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/children-young-people-ctr-code-toolkit.pdf>

Care and Treatment Reviews (CTR)

Care Treatment Reviews (CTR) were introduced in October 2015 as part of Transforming Care; NHS England's commitment to improving care of people of all ages with learning disabilities and/or autism.

The aim is to reduce the need for admission, prevent unnecessary lengthy stays in hospitals and reduce health inequalities. Thus enabling the individual to live in community settings that provide the greatest opportunity to realise their potential and independence.

In Hartlepool these reviews are provided by multi-disciplinary teams from Hartlepool & Stockton-on-Tees CCG & Tees, Esk & Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust.

More detailed information can be found at: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/learning-disabilities/care/ctr/>

Child & Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS) Crisis & Liaison Service

The Child & Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS) Crisis Team is a team of nurses that responds to young people experiencing mental health crisis. The service operates from 8am to 10pm, 7 days per week and is open to all young people up until their 18th birthday.

This is an open referral system, offering short term intensive interventions and evidence based psychological interventions.

The Clinical Commissioning Group commission Child and Adolescent Mental Health Crisis and Liaison Services.

In Hartlepool this service is delivered by Tees, Esk & Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust.

More detailed information can be found at: <https://www.tewv.nhs.uk/locations/west-lane-hospital/>

Child & Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS) Tier 4 inpatients services

NHS England undertake a specialised commissioning role for Children and Young People's inpatients admissions.

The Newberry Centre provides care for young people aged 12 to 18 experiencing serious mental health problems.

They offer a safe, comfortable environment where they can assess and treat young people, working with the young people and their families/carers on all aspects of their care, to ensure they get the most appropriate treatment.

In Hartlepool this service is delivered by Tees, Esk & Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust.

More detailed information can be found at:

<https://www.tewv.nhs.uk/services/inpatient-service-for-children-and-young-people-at-newberry-centre/>

Children's Continuing Care (CCC)

Some children and young people may have needs arising from disability, accident or illness which cannot be met by existing services and a continuing care package may be required.

The team comprises of a children and young people's health assessor and a clinical nurse specialist who commission packages of care to meet the identified health need. This is via a range of options including personal health budgets (PHB), notional PHB's, commissioned packages from complex health care providers and jointly commissioned packages with Local Authorities. The aim of the package is to support the child or young person to achieve their outcomes in their Education Health and Care Plan and to give their parents a break from their caring role.

The functions of the Children's Continuing Care team are to:

- Initial screening of referrals
- Coordinate assessment and information gathering
- Coordinate Decision Support Tool (DST) meeting and chair
- Complete DST paperwork and agree whether meets eligibility or not and feedback to referrer
- Promote PHB and facilitate as required (specific to locality area)
- Support the family to get in place support package to meet assessed needs
- Present proposed package to Complex needs panel to seek funding approval by LA and CCG
- 3 monthly reviews of package
- Annual DST for eligibility
- Changes to packages to be agreed at complex needs panel
- Provide Fast track for Children and Young People at the end of their lives, agree package with CCG outside of panel arrangements

In Hartlepool this service is delivered by NHS North of England Commissioning Support Unit (NECS) on behalf of Hartlepool & Stockton-on-Tees CCG.

More detailed information can be found at on the National Framework at:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/children-and-young-peoples-continuing-care-national-framework>

Children's Equipment Service

Childrens Equipment can be bought or loaned from providers to help assist people with daily living and promote independence.

The key aims of these services are to deliver equipment which enables children and young people to live healthily, independently and to improve quality of life.

Services are designed to prevent admission to hospital and to facilitate prompt discharges and to develop policies and strategies to reflect a commitment to best value and to ensure quality services are provided efficiently and effectively.

In Hartlepool this service is provided by Tees Community Equipment Services.

More detailed information can be found at:
<https://www.hartlepoolnow.co.uk/pages/home/information-&-advice/living-at-home/tees-community-equipment-service>

and /or

<http://tcescommunity.co.uk/>

Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)

The Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is a clinically-led statutory NHS body and is responsible for the planning and commissioning of health care services for their local area. CCGs are:

- Membership bodies, with local GP practices as the members;
- Led by an elected governing body made up of GPs, other clinicians including a nurse and a secondary care consultant, and lay members;
- Responsible for approximately 2/3 of the total NHS England budget;
- Responsible for commissioning healthcare including mental health services, urgent and emergency care, elective hospital services, and community care;
- Independent, and accountable to the Secretary of State for Health through NHS England;
- Responsible for the health of populations ranging from under 100,000 to 900,000, although their average population is about a quarter of a million people.

For the Hartlepool population the responsible body is Hartlepool & Stockton-on-Tees Clinical Commissioning Group.

More information can be found at: <https://www.hartlepoolandstocktonccg.nhs.uk/>

Community Eating Disorder Service

The Children and Young People's Specialist Eating Disorders Service works with young people up to 18 years of age who have difficulties with eating. The Evergreen Centre is a consultant led, specialist 12 bed unit which provides an exceptionally high quality, caring environment for young people with eating disorders living in Northumberland, Tyne and Wear, County Durham, Tees Valley, and North Cumbria, who need inpatient care.

The team provides assessment and treatment of children and young people who are already undergoing assessment within tier 3 child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) for an eating disorder such as anorexia, bulimia or EDNOS (eating disorder not otherwise specified)

The service is countywide but based at the Mulberry Centre alongside Darlington CAMHS.

In Hartlepool this service is provided by Tees, Esk & Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust.

More detailed information can be found at:
<https://www.tewv.nhs.uk/locations/evergreen-centre/>

and

<https://www.tewv.nhs.uk/services/county-durham-and-darlington-camhs-eating-disorders-service/>

Community Services

The NHS Foundation Trust provides a range of Paediatric and Community Children's nursing services for the local population. The service offers a range of clinics for children and young people from birth to 18 years old and depending on the clinic, a team of paediatricians, doctors, specialist nurses, speech and language therapists, community nurses or other members of the team are available.

Various clinics and interventions not limited to but include:

- diabetes
- epilepsy
- endocrine
- respiratory
- feeding
- general and urology surgery
- general paediatrics

- urinary tract infections
- constipation
- allergy
- gastroenterology
- neuro-disability
- dietetics
- neonatology
- cardiac echo screening
- BCG immunisations
- speech and language
- psychology for children and young people with diabetes
- blood sampling

There are a number of consultants from other NHS trusts who provide specialist clinics for immunology, hepatic conditions, cystic fibrosis, paediatric nephrology, neurology, genetic conditions, paediatric respiratory and muscle disorders. Initial consultant appointments are overseen by specialist nurses on an ongoing basis.

In Hartlepool this service is provided by North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust.

More information can be found at:

<https://www.nth.nhs.uk/services/childrens-outpatients/>

Continence

There are different levels of intervention to provide continence support to Children, Young People and their families, responsibilities for the commissioning of services are placed with different authorities.

Level 1 is early intervention including, advice and guidance from the 0-19 Universal Services Team and provide support for toilet training, night time wetting, day time wetting and constipation. This is commissioned by the Local Authority Public Health Teams.

Level 2 is a nurse led service commissioned by the Clinical Commissioning Group and covers all aspects of continence and provision of products.

Level 3 is specialist care commissioned by the Clinical Commissioning Group and requires consultant input i.e. urological issues.

Level 2 and Level 3 Paediatric Continence Service covers all children from birth to 19 years old with continence problems, including children with learning difficulties and physical disabilities. Young adults between the age of 18 and 25 years old can receive continence services from the Continence Advisory Service which is delivered by the NHS Foundation Trust.

In Hartlepool this service is provided by North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust.

More information can be found at:

<https://www.nth.nhs.uk/services/continence-advisory-service/>

Continuing Health Care (CHC)

Continuing Healthcare is a package of care funded by the NHS where an individual's care is fully funded by the health service regardless of their wealth or savings. Continuing Healthcare may be available to you if your main requirement for care is down to health related problems. It can be received in hospital, a nursing home or at the individual's home. This is often described as 'fully funded care'.

NHS Continuing Healthcare is for people aged over 25. Children and Young People may receive a "continuing care package" if they have needs arising from disability, accident or illness that can't be met by existing universal or specialist services alone.

To be eligible for NHS Continuing Healthcare, you must be assessed by a team of healthcare professionals (a multi-disciplinary team). The team will look at all your care needs and relate them to:

- what help you need
- how complex your needs are
- how intense your needs can be
- how unpredictable they are, including any risks to your health if the right care isn't provided at the right time

Eligibility for NHS Continuing Healthcare depends on assessed needs, and not on any particular diagnosis or condition. If needs change then eligibility for NHS Continuing Healthcare may change.

In Hartlepool assessments and support for CHC is delivered by NHS North of England Commissioning Support Unit (NECS) on behalf of Hartlepool & Stockton-on-Tees CCG.

More detailed information can be found at :

<https://www.hartlepoolandstocktonccg.nhs.uk/your-health/continuing-healthcare/>

and / or

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/social-care-and-support-guide/money-work-and-benefits/nhs-continuing-healthcare/>

Designated Medical/Clinical Officer

The Department for Education and the Department for Health have produced Statutory Guidance for organisations which work with and support Children and Young People (CYP) who have special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) in January 15. The Code of Practice sets out guidance on Part 3 of the Children and

Families Act 2014. One of the provisions described within the Code of Practice is around the identification of a Designated Medical Officer or a Designated Clinical Officer.

The Code recommends that partners should ensure there is a responsible individual to support the CCG in meeting its statutory responsibilities for children and young people with SEN and disabilities, primarily by providing a point of contact for local partners, when notifying parents and local authorities about children and young people they believe have, or may have, SEN or a disability, and when seeking advice on SEN or disabilities.

The DCO provides the point of contact for local authorities, schools and colleges seeking health advice on CYP who may have SEN or disabilities, and provides a contact (or contacts) for CCGs or health providers so that appropriate notification can be given to the local authority of children under compulsory school age who they think may have SEN or disabilities. The DCO can support schools with their duties under the 'Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions' guidance. The DCO would not routinely be involved in assessments or planning for individuals, except in the course of their usual clinical practice, but would be responsible for ensuring that assessment, planning and health support is carried out. Some CCGs may delegate key decisions to the DCO (for example, agreeing the health services in an EHC plan).

The DCO should have an appropriate level of clinical expertise to enable them to exercise these functions effectively, and should be designated as the DCO in their job description. There may be one DCO for several CCGs and local authorities, where there are joint arrangements or shared commissioning responsibilities, and given the age range of EHC plans from birth to 25, the DCO may need to liaise with colleagues outside paediatrics.

The role of the DCO is to:

- Maximise outcomes for CYP with SEND by working to improve quality of life, school absences, secondary mental and physical health conditions, personal autonomy and engagement in further education and employment
- Play a strategic role in relation to the SEND agenda, developing, improving and influencing service design and delivery
- Provide an expert resource for CYP health information, guidance, reassurance and support for families and professionals
- Attend multi agency panels and support decision making on the basis of clinical judgement
- Challenge and approve packages for CYP with SEND
- Co-ordinate and pull together information from various services involved with the CYP (current and historic involvement)
- Develop processes for the quality assurance of the finalised EHCPs and the input from Health Colleagues
- Undertake trend analysis for the CYP cohorts and identify commissioning gaps to inform future commissioning
- Make and follow up safeguarding referrals
- Liaison with professions from health providers both internally and externally to ensure that all relevant health information is available to support EHC decision making at panel and provide longer term specialised and strategic oversight

There has been a DCO appointed to the CCG as of 1st June 2018 who is working across the Hartlepool, Stockton and Darlington Local Authority boundary areas. Ruth Kimmins, DCO, can be contacted through Hartlepool and Stockton on Tees Clinical Commissioning Group on 01642 745271.

Drug, Alcohol & Substance Misuse Services

Drugs and alcohol often play a significant role in the lives of young people, whether that be curiosity, experimentation, recreational or problematic use and very infrequently, dependent use. Public Health has a role in ensuring the availability of appropriate services to support the identified needs of the local population.

These services support young people to recover from problematic substance use that is impacting on their day to day life and relationships with family. These services can be accessed via self-referral or other referral from any source. Duration of intervention is not time limited and is flexible and responsive to support the individual needs and preferences of the Children, Young People and their families.

In Hartlepool Addaction provides treatment in partnership with Hartlepool Borough Council as part of the HART (Hartlepool Action Recovery Team). Addaction provides the clinical interventions including substitute prescribing where appropriate and Hartlepool Borough Council provides the assessment, recovery co-ordination PSI and other wraparound support. The two agencies work in partnership as HART with nurses and recovery workers working together under the HART umbrella to achieve the best results for service users.

More information can be found at:

<https://www.addaction.org.uk/services/hartlepool>

Dynamic Support Register

Local health and care services and statutory bodies should develop a dynamic register based on sophisticated risk stratification of their local populations to enable local services to anticipate and meet the needs of those people with a learning disability and/or autism who display behaviour that challenges, or who are at risk of developing behaviour that challenges, ensuring local services plan appropriately and provide early interventions, including preventative support.

It is the responsibility of Hartlepool Borough Council to ensure this registers is up to date.

More detailed information can be found at:

<https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/transforming-care-council-ee2.pdf>

and / or

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/service-model-291015.pdf>

Emotional, Wellbeing & Mental Health (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services)

The Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) is provided by Tees Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV). The service works with Children, Young People and their families up to the age of 18 years old who are experiencing mental health problems / complex emotional and behavioural difficulties, offering assessment, diagnosis and treatment. The team has a wide range of professional registered practitioners including Psychiatrists, Clinical Psychologists, Mental Health Nurses, Occupational Therapists, Social Workers and Primary Mental Health Workers.

In addition there is a CAMHS team specifically for Children and Young People with a diagnosed Learning Disability to ensure that the needs of children, young people and families are met in the most appropriate way.

The service provides a range of specialist health services to children and young people up to the age of 18 years old with mild, moderate or severe learning disabilities as well as a significant mental health problem or complex need.

In Hartlepool this service is provided by Tees, Esk & Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust.

More information can be found at: <https://www.tewv.nhs.uk/services/hartlepool-community-team-for-children-and-young-people/>

and / or

<https://www.tewv.nhs.uk/services/community-teams-for-children-and-young-people-with-learning-disabilities-in-teesside/>

Future in Mind Programmes (FIM)

Published in March 2015 – Future in MIND programmes continue to set direction of travel for Local Authorities and CCG's and include, a consensus across the whole system, a clear steer and some key principles about how to make it easier for children and young people to access high quality mental health care when they need it and to promote resilience, prevention and early intervention by improving access to effective support.

In Hartlepool these programmes are delivered by Hartlepool Borough Council & Hartlepool & Stockton-on-Tees CCG

More detailed information can be found at:
https://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/downloads/file/1681/future_in_mind

Growing Well Growing Healthy Service

Child and Family Healthy Weight Service providing the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) programme and offers one to one / group interventions to children, young people and their families regarding healthy weight and lifestyle.

In Hartlepool this service is provided by Hartlepool Borough Council.

More information can be found at;

https://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/info/20015/social_care_and_health/777/national_child_measurement_programme

Hospice Services

Children's hospice services aim to meet the physical, emotional and social needs of children, young people and their families. Care is provided by a multi-disciplinary team of specialist staff, all working closely together to ensure seamless support to the entire family (including siblings and grandparents).

Children's hospices provide a wide range of support, including practical help, advice and information, specialist short break care, specialist therapies, including physiotherapy, complementary therapies, play and music therapy, information, support and training for parent carers.

Hospices Services are commissioned on an adhoc and needs assessed basis for individuals as required. The Clinical Commissioning Group commission hospice services for children and young people eligible for children's continuing care (CCC) on an individual basis to meet the individual needs of the child or young person. These respite services and end of life care are provided by Zoe's Place, Middlesbrough up until the child's 6th birthday or Butterwick House, Darlington from birth to 25 years.

Butterwick House offer sibling support and family support including counselling and holistic support to all the family.

In Hartlepool this service is provided by Zoes Place and Butterwick Hospice.

More information can be found at:

<https://www.zoes-place.org.uk/middlesbrough/default.aspx>

or

<https://www.butterwick.org.uk/>

Hospital Based Services

The Clinical Commissioning Group commission Children's Paediatric Services from the NHS Foundation Trust. There is a team of doctors, nurses, nurse practitioners, health care assistants and specialists in care for children.

This service provides a comprehensive range of Child Health, Paediatrics and Neonatal services.

In Hartlepool this service is provided by North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust and is based at the University Hospital of North Tees.

More information can be found at: <https://www.nth.nhs.uk/services/childrens-ward/>

or

<https://www.nth.nhs.uk/services/childrens-day-unit/>

Midwifery & Maternity

Midwifery is the health science and health profession that deals with pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period (including care of the newborn), in addition to the sexual and reproductive health of women throughout their lives. A professional in midwifery is known as a midwife.

In Hartlepool this service is provided by North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust.

More detailed information can be found at:

<https://www.nth.nhs.uk/services/maternity/>

Occupational Therapy Services

The Occupational Therapy Service provide a team of specialist therapists and assistant therapists to provide assessment, treatment and advice to children, young people and their families in a range of locations including home, school or hospital clinics. The service will assess and treat children and young people who have long term health needs or problems with movement and co-ordination.

The service will make sure your child reaches their potential and works alongside other professionals involved with the child or young person to ensure a holistic approach to treatment and assessment.

In Hartlepool this service is provided by North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust.

More information can be found at; <https://www.nth.nhs.uk/services/childrens-occupational-therapy/>

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

The Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is responsible for providing services to meet the needs of the local population and all services have a responsibility to continually improve the services provided.

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) offer confidential advice, support and information on health related matters. They provide a point of contact for patients, their families and their carers. You can also find officers from PALS in your local hospital.

PALS provides help in many ways, for example, it can help you with health related questions, help resolve concerns or problems when you're using the NHS and tell you how to get more involved in your own healthcare. PALS can give you information about health services and the NHS complaints procedure, including how to get independent help if you want to make a complaint, as well as support groups outside the NHS. PALS also help to improve the NHS by listening to your concerns and suggestions.

The North of England Commissioning Support Unit (NECS) provide a complaints function on behalf of the CCG. Each individual NHS provider trust has their own internal complaints procedures.

In Hartlepool this service is provided by Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

More information can be found at;
<https://www.nhs.uk/common-health-questions/nhs-services-and-treatments/what-is-pals-patient-advice-and-liaison-service/>

or

<https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/about-the-nhs/how-to-complain-to-the-nhs/>

Personal Health Budget (PHB)

A personal health budget is an amount of money provided to support health and wellbeing needs, which is planned and agreed between you (or someone who represents you), and your local NHS team. It allows an individual to manage healthcare and support such as treatments, equipment and personal care, in a way that suits individual needs. It works in a similar way to personal budgets, which allow people to manage and pay for their social care needs.

A child or young person up to the age of 18 years old who are in receipt of Children's Continuing Care (CCC) or a young person over the age of 18 years old who are in receipt of Continuing Healthcare (CHC) have the legal right to a Personal Health

Budget (PHB). Children and young people in receipt of an education health and care plan (EHCP) have the option to request a personal health budget for support to meet their health outcomes outlined in their plan, however the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) can decline this request if existing commissioned services can meet the health needs of the child or young person.

Due to the historic way in which health services have been commissioned, the CCG has to consider how we can issue a PHB whilst ensuring the service or services requested are not already commissioned through current NHS arrangements to ensure this is not a double fund services.

When PHB is requested the CCG look at alternative ways of meeting needs such as; why does the service available not meet needs for example; does the service requested have restricted opening hours or delivery locations which means it cannot meet an individual's needs. By working with the provider the CCG can look to improve these elements and meet the needs of the local population in a flexible manner.

The CCG routinely review services and through working with providers will look at how services are funded to make agreeing to offer a Personal Health Budget easier for children and young people who have an EHC plan.

In Hartlepool this service is provided by Hartlepool & Stockton-on-Tees Clinical Commissioning Group.

More information can be found at; <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/help-with-health-costs/what-is-a-personal-health-budget/>

Physiotherapy Services

Physiotherapy Services provide a team of children's physiotherapists and therapy assistants to offer the highest standard of care, ensuring that not only the health needs of the child or young person are considered but also the social, emotional and educational needs up to and including Young People aged 18 years old (up to 19 for Young People with additional needs)

The service comprises of clinical specialists, specialised physiotherapists and assistants who provide an integrated acute and community service for inpatients, outpatients and within the community, offering treatment in a variety of settings including hospital wards, clinics, nurseries, children's centres, specialist and mainstream schools and within the family home.

In Hartlepool these open access services are provided by North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust and South Tees NHS Foundation Trust or for Young People with a Learning Disability can be supported by the Tees Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust Tees Community Learning Disabilities Team

In Hartlepool, physiotherapy services for young people between the ages of 19 and 25 years old with a disability are met within the adult physiotherapy service provided by North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust.

Physiotherapy for children and young people who attend a special school in Hartlepool are provided by South Tees NHS Foundation Trust.

More information can be found at;

<https://www.nth.nhs.uk/services/childrens-physiotherapy/>

and/or

<https://www.nth.nhs.uk/services/physiotherapy/>

and /or

<https://www.southtees.nhs.uk/services/physiotherapy/paediatric-physiotherapy/>

Primary Care Services

Primary Care Services provide the first point of contact in the healthcare system, acting as the 'front door' of the NHS. Primary Care Services includes general practice, practice nurses, community pharmacy, dental, and optometry (eye health) services.

These services support individuals and families to manage their primary healthcare needs, including diagnosing illness, advice and guidance about general ailments and support with the monitoring and management of long term conditions and prescribing appropriate medications to treat and manage conditions.

As well as this Primary Care Services also support with vaccination programmes and also screening services for early identification and prevention of illness.

In Hartlepool these services are provided by 13 GP surgeries across the town that holds patient lists for the whole of the local population.

More detailed information and a list of these GP surgeries can be found at:

<https://www.nhs.uk/Services/Trusts/GPs/DefaultView.aspx?id=89709>

Regional Communication Aids Service

The Regional Communication Aid Service is based at Walkergate Park, Newcastle upon Tyne and is a specialist Electronic Assistive Technology Service. The service aims to improve the independence of people of all ages who experience severe communication difficulties through the provision of specialised services for Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC) Aids.

They support local teams in working with individuals to understand their AAC needs and in providing specialised communication aids.

This service is provided by Northumberland, Tyne & Wear NHS Foundation Trust, it is a specialist service accessed through professional referral as required.

More detailed information can be found at:

<https://www.ntw.nhs.uk/services/regional-communication-aid-service-neurological-service-walkergate/>

Services for Specific Conditions

Health services provide a range of specialist services including paediatrics, social worker, health visiting, clinical psychology, speech and language therapy, occupational therapy and physiotherapy. In addition there are a range of specialist services commissioned by the clinical commissioning group which include, asthma, diabetes, epilepsy and special community dental services.

Short Breaks

Support for children and young people with complex needs to spend time away from their home while receiving the support they need is available in several ways:

- Day/Evening/Overnight placements/packages of support in a family home for children and young people with complex needs
- Day/Evening/Overnight placements/packages of support arranged in the homes of carers.
- Short term overnight placements lasting anything from one night to several weeks, enabling both the Children and Young Person and their parents or carers to have a break
- Long term placements providing the opportunity for the person receiving support to live as part of the family
- Residential respite.

Local Authorities arrange for and commission most of the short break provision for Children or Young People with special educational needs, additional needs and/or disability. For Children and Young People with additional health needs, short breaks are provided through Children's Continuing Care (CCC) packages and also through NHS bed based respite facilities or through hospice services where available and appropriate.

In Hartlepool this service is provided through Children's Continuing Care packages and through hospice care as required.

More information can be found at

<https://hartlepool.fsd.org.uk/kb5/hartlepool/fsd/organisation.page?id=eYrimASXz7s>

Specialist Hospital Based Services

Specialist services support people with a range of rare and complex conditions. They often involve treatments provided to patients with rare cancers, genetic disorders or complex medical or surgical conditions. They deliver cutting-edge care and are a catalyst for innovation, supporting pioneering clinical practice in the NHS.

These services are provided from centres where the clinical expertise exists, for example, the Royal Victoria Infirmary (RVI), Newcastle and Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH), London or the Tavistock Hospital. Often care for Children and Young People are shared between specialist units and the referring local paediatrician, where the Child, Young Person and their family attend periodic appointments. All other care and intervention is delivered locally.

Speech & Language Therapy Service

The Speech and Language Therapy service work with children and young people from birth to 19 years of age who have a speech, language and communication needs or difficulties with eating, drinking and swallowing.

As well as working with children and young people service, they also provide support to families and carers, teachers and other adults around them. The service aims to develop their best possible communication skills, taking into account their individual abilities and needs.

The service also aims to help the wider population to understand and promote children and young people's language and communication development and provide training and support to a wide range of professionals who work with children.

In Hartlepool this service is provided by North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust.

Speech and Language Services for young people between the ages of 19 and 25 years old with disabilities are met within adult services and is provided by North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust.

More information can be found at;

<https://www.nth.nhs.uk/services/speech-language-therapy/children/>

or

<https://www.nth.nhs.uk/services/adults/>