

Speech and Language Therapy Service Update

SENCo Forum – June 2024

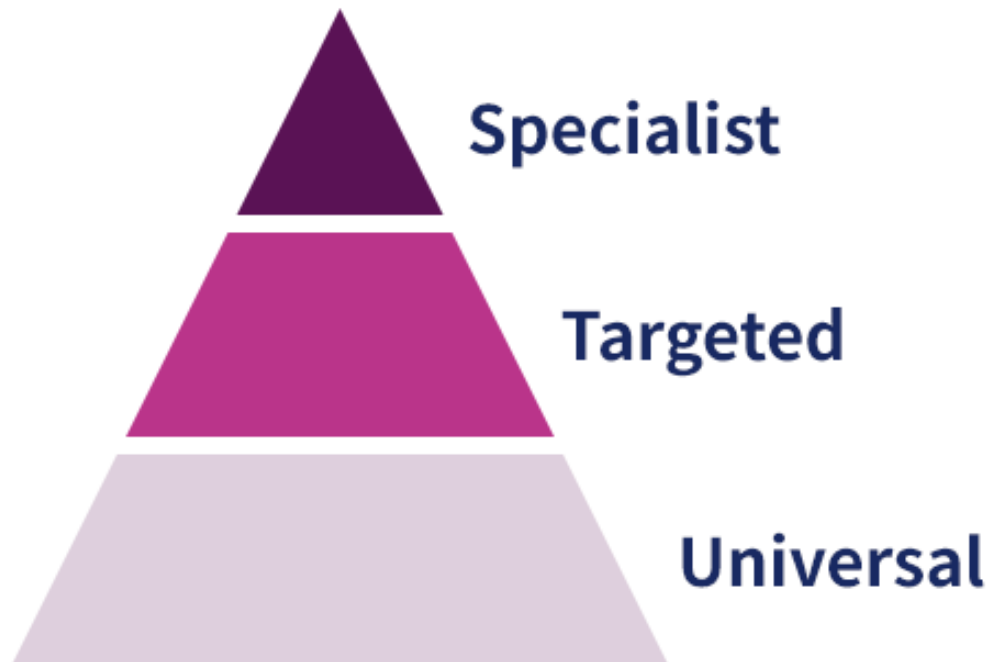
Presented by Bethany Cole

School-age Team Manager & Specialist Speech and Language Therapist

The challenges

- Despite recruitment we continue to be short staffed – however even when fully staffed capacity would not be able to meet demand.
- Large population increase.
- Increased demand
- Each month we have been receiving more referrals than initial assessments being completed – therefore waiting list is not decreasing.
- Currently a 15 month wait for assessment.

Levels of provision



Currently large proportion of SaLT time is going into targeted provision i.e., language assessment & modelling sessions, speech sound delays – currently **55% of the waiting list is for Key Stage 1 speech and language children.**

Reducing targeted support should therefore allow more timely support for specialist provision i.e., communication assessment & intervention, EHCP assessment and transition children, significant speech sound disorders, KS2 language assessment, children at risk of exclusion.

Our plan to reduce targeted SaLT provision

1. Change in referral criteria from Sept 24

- Speech & language children to receive at least 12 weeks of intervention in school prior to a referral conversation (screen & evidence of progress required). This is to support the service in differentiating between those children that require 'school-based' support vs specialist support from the service.
- Direct referrals can be made to the service for 'specialist' children; eating & drinking, stammering, non-speaking children.

How do we get ready?

Waiting list review

- Now underway!
- Reminder: These meetings are an opportunity to discuss the children on the service's waiting list – it may be that some children have moved setting/have resolved/don't require 'specialist support' and can be supported via 'school-based support'.
- Final decisions made by team managers over the summer holidays. Any children being taken off the waiting list will be provided with a letter along with advice & resources – sent to school & parents.

1

Our plan to reduce targeted SaLT provision

Equip school staff to carry out targeted provision for speech and language children.

2

Option a) To use external speech and language packages you already have/run in school e.g., TalkBoost, NELI, Wellcomm.



Option b) To purchase an external speech and language package such as Speech and Language Link

Speech Link and Language Link

- Standardised screening
- Group Intervention plans (30 mins x week for 4 children)
- Classroom strategies
- School staff training
- Parent portal



Annual subscription

- Speech Link: £250
 - Infant Language Link (EYFS & KS1): £375
 - Junior Language Link (KS2): £375
- Discounts provided per number of packages.

<https://speechandlanguage.info>

Option c) Access available resources

- Access the service's screening tools: www.cpft.nhs.uk/speech-and-language-referrals
- Access the service's toolkit for activity ideas and intervention session plans/resources: www.cpft.nhs.uk/speech-and-language-toolkit
- Access specific resources from resource sites such as Twinkl and Black Sheep Press Pack




Speech and Language Therapy Toolkit

Summer holidays

- ❖ KS2 & KS3 assessments in clinic
- ❖ Parents will be invited to book onto an appointment via the Microsoft Bookings System
- ❖ Letters to go out 1st/2nd week of July – schools will be cc'd in
- ❖ Care to be closed if parents don't book on or attend
- ❖ Any vulnerable families invited who might not attend let us know
- ❖ Reports written over summer – schools can opt-in for a meeting/advice session in the autumn term if beneficial

Referral process – Sept 24

Speech and Language Children = via discussion with a Therapist

- School to ask parents to complete a 'Parental consent for SaLT discussion' form. 
- School to book in a discussion with a Therapist. For each discussion request they should share with the Therapist the 'Parental consent for SaLT discussion' form, screen information and evidence of intervention & progress. The next steps will then be decided a) continue with school-based support b) referral into the service.
- All speech and language children must have been screened, received 12 weeks of intervention and had a review outcome measure (re-screen or intervention notes) prior to being discussed with a Therapist. Limited progress is an indicator for DLD and persistent speech sound delays/disorders, that will require specialist provision.

Non-speaking, Stammering, Eating & Drinking = via direct referral



- Referral forms for each need will be available on the website to be completed jointly by parents and school.

ALL INFORMATION WILL BE ON OUR WEBSITE BEGINNING OF AUTUMN TERM:

<https://www.cpft.nhs.uk/speech-and-language-therapy-referrals>

Key reminders

- Access our toolkit: [Speech and Language Therapy Toolkit | CPFT NHS Trust](#)
- Contact your Link Therapist for any questions/queries via the service email address: cpm-tr.SLTmailforparents@nhs.net
- Please inform us as soon as possible if change in SENCo/key contact.

*Thank you from all of us at the Peterborough
Speech and Language Team, we hope you
enjoy the summer holidays!!*