

# Speech and Language Therapy Service Update

SENCo Forum – May 2024

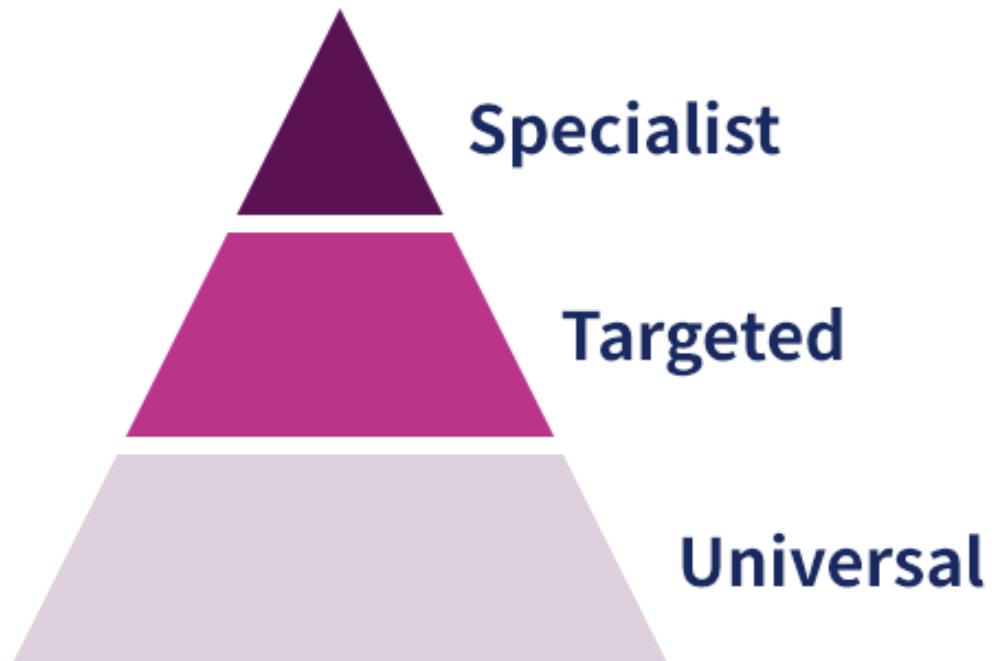
Presented by Bethany Cole

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.

## Our plan to reduce targeted SaLT provision

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

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



**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](http://www.cpft.nhs.uk/speech-and-language-referrals)
- Access the service's toolkit for activity ideas: [www.cpft.nhs.uk/speech-and-language-toolkit](http://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

# How do we get ready?

## Waiting list review

- 1
  - Table of children on our waiting list to be sent to SENCOs on **3<sup>rd</sup> May** – deadline to email back to the service with your comments by **24<sup>th</sup> May**.
  - If completed table received, you will receive a link to book onto a meeting with your Link Therapist next half-term to discuss further.
  - Meeting: To discuss and decide jointly if any children are appropriate for 'school-based support' and therefore don't need to be seen by our service. You will be provided with a letter along with advice & resources for these children (sent over the summer holidays).





# How do we get ready?

## Speech and Language Link

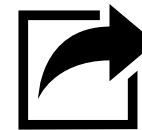
- 2 - Book onto an information session run by Speech Link:  
<https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/SpeechandLanguageLinkworkshop@cpft.onmicrosoft.com/bookings/>
- Review their website: <https://speechandlanguage.info/>
- Sign-up for a free trial (can screen three children)

## 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 their Link 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.

# Key reminders

- Referrals will close at May half-term (24<sup>th</sup>), as per last academic year.
- 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](mailto:cpm-tr.SLTmailforparents@nhs.net)

*Thank you from all of us at the Peterborough Speech and  
Language Team!*

