

## Speech and Language Support Available to Schools in Darlington

### North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust

The Trust provides a service for children and young people with speech, language and communication (SLC) difficulties, working in partnership with families and other agencies to ensure the best possible outcomes. The service is delivered in the most appropriate venue to meet the identified needs of the child and this may be in a range of places including clinic, home or school. Where SLC difficulties impact on a child's ability to access the educational curriculum, support will be provided to the school as appropriate. This may include support at different levels:

1. Universal: general information for the workforce, where to go for further information and what to do if they have concerns;
2. Targeted: assessment and diagnosis (including in schools) for children with SLC delay who following targeted intervention will return to the universal level; and advice to the workforce around the needs of a child;
3. Specialist: for children who have been identified with a SLC disorder or severe delay where intervention planning and liaison with parents/carers and support/supervision for the workforce (including training), will facilitate the effective implementation of specialist provision.

Further information please visit the departmental website [www.nth.nhs.uk/slt](http://www.nth.nhs.uk/slt) or contact the department via the Single Point of Access on 01429 522717

### Schools

A number of schools commission their own SLT support (including training) or employ their own Speech and Language therapist(s), please contact the individual school for information or see the school Local Offer <http://www.darlington.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-years/school-finder>.

### Local Authority Provision

The Local Authority (LA) has a reserved provision for pupils with SLC as a Primary Special Education Need in the form of a Speech and Language Resource base (SLB) at Northwood Primary School.

The LA provides 9 placements for children (ages 4-11), with a SLC disorder or severe delay requiring daily access to appropriately trained staff and an environment modified to their needs.

It is important to note that the DFE guidance for "resourced provision" is where pupils spend more than half of their time in mainstream classes **with**

**support.** Support at the SLB is either in mainstream classes, in group sessions or on a one-to-one basis (for a minimum of 2 sessions per week). The SLB is not a "designated SEN unit" where pupils spend more than half of their time in special classes.

A Speech and Language therapist assessment is required in order for a child to access the SLB. The report will be accompanied by other information (including an Educational Psychology report and the child's SEN Support Plan), and provided to the LA Resource Base provision panel who will decide if a place in the SLB is the best environment for the child.

Upon accessing a place at the SLB, specialist support is provided by a teacher and higher level teaching assistant and speech and language therapist. The therapist supports the SLB Teacher and TA in delivery of children's speech and language educational targets. The therapist will be on site (at Northwood school) regularly during the week. The therapist may or may not be the same as the therapist who has assessed the child prior to this placement.

The SLB also provide an outreach service to all schools providing advice on assessment of speech and language, classroom strategies, speech and language skills and training for staff.

For more information please contact your school SENCo or Northwood Primary School on [www.Northwoodprimary.org.uk](http://www.Northwoodprimary.org.uk)

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