



Coventry Children's Speech and Language Therapy

Service for school-aged children/young people

The Coventry Children's Speech and Language Therapy service is a specialist service which aims to support children and young people to reach their full speech, language and communication potential.



The Speech and Language Therapy team work with school-aged children and young people who have difficulties with

- Speech sounds
- Language (understanding and talking)
- Feeding & swallowing
- Stammering
- Selective mutism
- Hearing impairment
- Voice disorders
- Augmentative and Alternative Communication

How can I access the service?

If your child/young person is registered with a Coventry GP they can be referred to our service. Anybody can make a referral on behalf of a child/young person including parents/carers, teachers, other health professionals including GPs.

Please see the referral tab on our website under 'About us' for more information about how to refer (www.coventrychildrensslts.co.uk).

School age assessments:

We aim to see children/young people for an assessment within 18 weeks. Details of our current waiting times are available on our website (in the 'About us' section). We will offer priority appointments for children/young people with the highest level of need.

Where do we work?

We offer most of our first Speech and Language Therapy appointments at the City of Coventry Health Centre (fourth floor). Pay and display parking is available on site. We are approximately 5 minutes walk from Pool Meadow bus station in Coventry City Centre or you may attend an appointment virtually on Attend Anywhere. Most appointments are approximately 45 minutes.



After a child/young person has been seen for their first appointment, if further input is required children/young people will be offered follow up appointments at the City of Coventry Health Centre, their school or home.

How do we work?

All children and young people accepted to the service will be offered an assessment appointment with a Speech & Language Therapist. The therapist will assess the child/young person's strengths and needs through discussion with the parent/carer and through play-based activities or through more formal assessment.

Following assessment, the therapist will give advice and recommendations to develop the child/young person's communication at home and at school. Further support will be offered dependent on the child/young person's Speech, Language or Communication Needs (SLCN), the impact this has on them, the support available and the potential for therapy activities to make a difference.

This means that some children/young people with communication needs will receive advice from the Speech and Language Therapist whereas others will receive direct support, depending on their need.

To get the most out of intervention we work together with the child/young person, their family, education staff and other important people around the child/young person.

What could be offered:

We offer assessment, ongoing support for children/young people with the highest level of need who require support with:

- Speech sounds
- Stammering
- Feeding and swallowing
- Augmentative and Alternative Communication
- Voice disorders
- Selective Mutism



For children/young people in mainstream primary and secondary schools where the child/young person's primary area of need is language (i.e. understanding and/or talking), we offer assessment and a period of intervention with the aim of training parents/carers and education staff to support the child/young person. Following this period of intervention the child/young person will be closed

to the service with advice and recommendations. If the child/young person's needs change, they can be re-referred to the service for further advice and support.

For children/young people requiring an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) we will provide an assessment to outline the child/young person's individual needs and share these recommendations in a report with parents/carers and the Local Authority.

The provision of speech and language support within an EHCP is the responsibility of the Local Authority. The Local Authority ask Children's Speech and Language Therapy at Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust to provide this for some children/young people. Other children/young people may have their needs met by others e.g. private speech and language therapists or specialist teachers.

If parents/carers and education settings have any queries about how speech and language support will be delivered for children/young people with an EHCP they should contact the child/young person's SEN Education Officer at the Coventry City Council.

If an education setting buy additional speech and language therapy from our service, they are able to ask the therapist to work with children/young people with an EHCP in their setting, if they wish.

When further support is offered we:

- Will decide what your child/young person needs to work on first. Most children/young people do better if we pick 2 or 3 things at a time.
- Will advise you how to work with your child/young person to meet their communication goals.
- May work directly with you and your child/young person to work on their specific goals.
- Will ask other people to help your child/young person by carrying out the activities we recommend e.g. at school.
- May provide training to you and other professionals.
- Will refer your child/young person to other professionals if needed, with your consent.
- May offer your child/young person a package of intervention, after which your child/young person will be closed to the service.

If a review appointment is required for your child/young person, we will send you a letter asking you to call in to confirm an appointment is required. A therapist will then contact you with appointment details.

Training

We offer a range of Universal and Bespoke training sessions. Please visit the 'Training' section of our website for up-to-date details around the training we offer. We also have lots of useful training videos for parents/carers and education staff on our website.



Discharge criteria

Children and young people are discharged from the service if they meet any of the following criteria:

- If the child/young person makes progress and there are no longer concerns or their communication/feeding skills are within the normal range for their age.
- The child/young person does not meet our service's eligibility criteria in relation to the severity of their need, the impact of their communication need or the support available for them to make progress.
- The child/young person presents with language needs (understanding and talking) and they have completed a package of intervention. Parents/carers and education staff can re-access support from our service if the child/young person's needs change.
- The child/young person has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and the Local Authority do not ask Children's Speech and Language Therapy to deliver their provision.
- If you don't come to an appointment and don't let us know, you will be sent a letter asking you to ring us within 4 weeks. If we do not hear back from you, your child/young person will be discharged.
- If the child/young person no longer has a Coventry GP.
- If the young person is 18 years of age and not in full time education, or if they are 19 years of age, or over, and in full time education.