

Coventry Children's Speech and Language Therapy

Service for children and young people attending specialist education settings

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 children and young people who have difficulties with:

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



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. For children within a specialist education setting we recommend that parents speak to school staff before making a referral.

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

How do we work?

Highly trained education staff work within specialist education settings across the city. Many teachers and teaching assistants have extensive experience in supporting children and young people with Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN). Not all children therefore require individual or direct support from the Speech and Language Therapy service as school staff can support a pupil's communication needs within their everyday learning.

Speech and Language Therapy support is delivered across three different levels:

➤ **Whole school (Universal)**

Helping to create a communication-friendly environment in school and providing training to education staff to support the needs of all children and young people.

➤ **Class or group (Targeted)**

Training of education staff to deliver interventions for small groups of children which can be run by school staff with the support of a Speech and Language Therapist. This level might also include sharing and modelling strategies to support communication at different times of the school day.



➤ **Individual (Specialist)**

Direct and individual intervention delivered by a Speech and Language Therapist (SLT) or Speech and Language Therapy Assistant (SLTA) within school for children with the highest level of need. This might involve a period of assessment and intervention as well as providing written information to detail the child/young person's communication needs.

Assessments:

We aim to see children/young people for their first assessment within 18 weeks. We will offer priority appointments for children/young people with the highest level of need. Our assessment appointments are offered in school.

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/education staff, through observation in class and more structured tasks where appropriate.

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:

For children/young people in specialist settings 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 with the highest level of need and requiring direct intervention, we will offer assessment and intervention in schools.



For children/young people who have 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.

When individual 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.

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.



School staff are also able to speak directly with the Speech and Language Therapist allocated to their school to request specific training sessions to meet the needs of the school.

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.