Who should I contact?

Initial queries should be directed to the child’s Speech and Language Therapist on 0191 2832484.

For further information about Outreach Support or for educational advice contact Mrs. Donna Watson, Teacher in Charge of Hedworthfield Speech and Language Unit and Outreach Service, on 0191 5373373 or 07817 875019.

Hedworthfield Speech and Language Outreach Service



What does the team provide?

Intensive speech and language support is provided in the child’s current mainstream school and is funded by the Local Education Authority. Each child receives a detailed speech and language therapy assessment carried out by an SLT. Therapy targets will then be set by the specialist SLT and shared with Outreach Support Workers, teaching staff and parents.

This may include:

* 1:1 speech and language assessment/ therapy
* Observations in class
* Activities and advice to teaching staff
* Attendance at meetings and provision of written reports where required.

Targets and therapy interventions are planned and evaluated by the SLT and shared with Outreach Support Workers on a weekly basis. The child will be seen up to 3 times each week by a member of the Outreach Team for up to 2 terms (although this is reviewed on a half termly basis). A member of school staff is expected to attend one or more of these sessions in order to facilitate carry-over of the child’s targets.

Who are the Outreach Team?

The team is made up of specialist professionally qualified staff who have considerable experience in working with children who have severe and persistent speech and language disorders.

It is made up of a Teacher, two Outreach Support Workers and two Speech and Language Therapists (SLTs), who are part of the specialist disorders service.

Who should access the Outreach Service?

The child has severe and persistent speech disorder and/or Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) identified by a Speech and Language Therapist. The child’s speech and language difficulty are their primary/main need impacting on their ability to access a mainstream curriculum. The child has made suitable progress with at least 2 blocks of speech and language therapy (as deemed appropriate by the NHS team) and there is evidence that they would benefit from a more intensive approach.

How is the service accessed?

The child will have a speech and language therapy report which confirms that the child’s speech and/or language is disordered and severe enough to require intensive speech and language therapy. If professionals and parents are in agreement, then a referral can be made. As part of this process the child’s school will need to provide information on their current attainment levels and academic progress. If the referral is accepted, the child will be added to the Outreach waiting list until a place becomes available.

What might happen after Outreach?

This will be dependent upon the child’s individual needs.

* It may be that the child needs continued intensive speech and language therapy, as well as specialised support to access the curriculum, and they may therefore be considered for a placement in the Speech and Language Unit at Hedworthfield Primary School.
* It may be that the child no longer requires an intensive level of input and they can return to the NHS community therapy team, or they may no longer need any therapy at all.
* In some cases, Outreach may reveal that the child’s speech and language difficulty is no longer their main area of need, or that they are not responding as expected to intensive therapy. In these cases other support may be more appropriate.