

18th March 2020

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

INFORMATION FROM THE SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY SERVICE

Dear Parents / Guardians

As you will be aware, many NHS services are currently disrupted due to the Coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak. As a department we have made the decision at this time to no longer offer home visits. This decision will be revisited as we respond to recommendations over the next few weeks.

Many of our appointments and therapy sessions take place on school-based premises. Currently the schools are experiencing high levels of pupil and staff absence. Some schools are allowing visitors whereas other schools are no longer accepting external agencies into their settings as part of social distancing measures.

As a service we are constantly in communication with our education colleagues and, where we have arranged assessments and therapy appointments, we will endeavour to keep these appointments at this time. However, in cases where this is not possible, we will contact you to discuss your child's progression and next steps. Please be reassured, if your child was receiving a block of therapy that is no longer able to go ahead, the member of our team who was working with your child will be in touch with you to discuss how you can support their targets at this time.

If your child was due to have a review in the next few months, we may telephone you to discuss their progress instead. If you have had any changes to your contact details, please let the department know either on the above telephone number or the email below.

If you have any concerns or questions about your child's speech and language therapy, or you would like some resources sent electronically to support your child, please get in touch with us via STCCG.speechtherapy@nhs.net. Please include your child's name and date of birth so we can access their patient records.

(Please note that whilst NHS emails are secure, we cannot guarantee a secure link when forwarding information to private email accounts – we will not be in a position to send specific clinical information about your child in this manner but would willingly send anonymous resources and hand-outs).

Many thanks for your patience and understanding at this time.



Alison Smithies
South Tees NHS Speech and Language Therapy Service Manager
on behalf of the Speech and Language Therapy Team