

REPORT TO: OSC**DATE: 12.02.19****REPORT TITLE: Speech and Language Therapy Update****REPORT AUTHOR/S:****Clara Seery****Clara.seery@enfield.gov.uk****PURPOSE OF REPORT:****Update on the Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) service****SUMMARY:****This report gives updated information regarding the Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) service for school-aged children in Enfield.****1. BACKGROUND**

Local Authorities have a statutory duty¹ to work with Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) in their local area to deliver the SEND Reforms. This includes Speech and Language Therapy (SLT).

Provision of the Speech and Language Therapy Service for Enfield's school-age children and young people is primarily provided by Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust (BEH-MHT). Enfield Council and Enfield CCG fund this provision jointly.

The latest (December 2018) figures from BEH-MHT show a caseload of 694 children accessing SLT services as part of their Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) provision. This is a 56% increase on caseload data from 2015 (445 children).

This caseload is covered by 7.3 FTE therapists for mainstream schools, and 6 FTE therapists for special schools. In addition, there are 4.8 FTE specialist Clinical Leads. Provision is also provided within six Additional Resource Provision (ARP) settings (a total of 0.6 FTE) and four Speech and Language Resource Bases ((SLRBs) (a total of 2 FTE)):

Organisation/Team	Position	FTE
Mainstream Education	School-Aged-SLT Manager	0.2
	Highly Specialist SLT	1.8
	SLT Preceptorship Therapist	5.3
Special Schools	Clinical Lead (Autism) SLT	0.5

¹ *Children and Families Act 2014, Part 3.* <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/6/notes/division/4/3>

	Highly Specialist SLT	3
	Specialist SLT	2
	SLT Preceptorship Therapist	0.5
Clinical Leads	Clinical Lead	4.8
Additional Resource Provision	Highly Specialist SLT	0.6
Speech & Language Resource Bases	Highly Specialist SLT	2

Further provision in Enfield includes the following; these are commissioned separately to the local authority/CCG partnership, by the organisations themselves:

Organisation/Team	Position	FTE
Youth Offending Unit	Clinical Lead Specialist	0.4
LAC Virtual School	Highly Specialist SLT	0.4
Orchardside School	Highly Specialist SLT	0.2
Early Years Social Inclusion	Highly Specialist SLT	1.0
West Lea School	Specialist	0.6

As of September 2018, referrals to the Speech and Language Service provided by BEH-MHT have been accepted for children who meet one of the following criteria:

- The child or young person has a primary health, speech and language need
- A request for a statutory needs assessment has been agreed by the SEN Panel
- The child already has an EHCP and has/is suspected to have a significant speech and language need, but no speech and language assessment was carried out when the EHCP was issued

If no EHCP is currently in place, referrals to the BEH-MHT Clinical Lead Consultation Pathway can be made, whereby schools contact a SLT Clinical Lead directly, and jointly agree a plan to meet the child's requirements.

In order to support them in continuing to support speech, language and communication needs, BEH-MHT also offers schools a purchasable range of support packages. These may include staff training, support and additional assessments, and are tailor-made to the school's requirements.

2. ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

An increase in EHCPs is reflected in a corresponding increase in the requirement for more SLT provision. EHCPs showed the need for SLT provision in April 2017 as 612 pupils; in April 2018, this had risen to 670.

Enfield Council's available funding for school-aged SLT was reduced by £52,191 in 2016 due to a reduction in Dedicated Schools Grant funding; the available funding has since remained static at £693,389. The CCG provides approximately £1.25M. This means a total of circa £1.95M is available each year to provide the SLT service, for a current estimate of 700 school-aged children and young people.

It is therefore proving a challenge to provide the SLT service in the same way it has been delivered in the past.

The following supporting analysis is established using data from the Office of National Statistics (ONS)².

The introduction of the SEND Reforms and EHCPs has seen a sharp increase in the number of children and young people with EHCPs.

For the period 2010 to 2015, there was an average annual increase of 2% in the number of children and young people with Statements. This was considerably lower than the average of 4% for outer London authorities.

The data indicates that for the period from January 2015 to 2017, there was an average annual increase of 18% for supporting pupils with EHCPs. The sharp increase reflected a general upsurge in demand due to families moving into Enfield following the introduction of the Welfare Reforms, changes in the assessment process as required by the SEND Reforms and significant increase in the school population.

The rate of increase reduced slightly for the period between January 2017 and 2018, and the average change from January 2015 to 2018 was 16.6%. However, the number of new EHCPs increased from an average of 10.8% for the period between January 2015 and 2017, to 22.1% for the period between January 2015 and 2018.

The total number of children and young people aged 0-25 with EHCPs reported as being supported at the end of 2017 was 2,187. At the end of the financial year 2017/18, there were 2,243 pupils supported.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is requested that the Committee notes this report for information; any comments are welcomed.

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/statements-of-sen-and-ehc-plans-england-2018> and <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/statements-of-sen-and-ehc-plans-england-2017>

4. NEXT STEPS

As funding for SLT is unlikely to increase, a strategy is required for systems change. BEH-MHT has already started working on this by putting the revised schools offer in place, but the service needs further change to enable it to continue to run effectively in the future, as service pressures increase.

Commissioners and managers from Enfield Council and Enfield CCG will continue to work together to consider how to utilise funding in the most effective way, ensuring that children and young people receive the service that they need, at the time that it is required.

Joint outcomes for the SLT service will be agreed between the Council and the CCG, and it is expected that any service redesign will be agreed before the start of the new school year.