

## Joint Commissioning Proposal for Securing Speech and Language Therapy Services – Education Health and Care Plan Section F Provision

Discussions regarding the joint commissioning of Speech and Language Therapy services have been held between current lead representatives from North Northants and West Northants Councils, together with the Northamptonshire Integrated Care Board. Historically, talks between the councils and Health on this issue have been ongoing for a significant period and pre-date the local government reorganisation. Progressing with joint commissioning would help to address this unsustainable situation and allow health investment to focus on delivering the EHC needs assessment process. It would also support the improvement of outcomes for children and young people.

There is universal agreement between all parties on a number of points:

1. Northamptonshire Integrated Care Board commission the NHS Speech and Language Therapy service which undertakes assessments and provides the advice for the Education, Health, and Care (EHC) needs assessment process. The Speech and Language Therapy service is provided by Northamptonshire Healthcare Foundation Trust.
2. Speech and Language Therapy provision is health provision that educates and trains, and therefore is included in Part F of the Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP). The responsibility for securing Special Education Needs (SEN) provision outlined in Part F rests with the local authority. **(See Appendix A for statutory duties)**
3. Historically the Northamptonshire Integrated Care Board commissioned Speech and Language Therapy service has delivered the provision in Part F of EHC Plans. However, due to a combination of factors this service is now under unprecedented pressure and is not able to consistently deliver this. To this end the Northamptonshire Integrated Care Board is not able to use its currently funded service to support the delivery of EHCP Part F provision, beyond March 31st, 2024.

4. National Health Service England in the East Midlands region have commissioned Better Communication Community Interest Company to undertake a series of regional workshops. These were entitled 'Achieving Impactful Change for children and Young People with Speech, Language and Communication Needs'. As a result of this work, data was shared which showed children and young people within North and West Northamptonshire have access to the lowest level of Speech and Language Therapy support within the East Midland Region, taking into account predicted population need. Interrogation of this data shows that Northamptonshire has a very low percentage of jointly commissioned Speech and Language Therapy provision when compared to other areas.
  
5. Commissioning Speech and Language Therapy services for EHCP Part F from the current provider, Northamptonshire Healthcare Foundation Trust (NHFT), would provide consistency and continuity of services to children and young people and achieve the best outcomes for them. **(See Appendix B for Joint Commissioning costings).**

Progress will be monitored through the SEND and Short Breaks Programme of the refreshed CYP Transformation Programme, and regular updates provided to the Children and Young People's Transformation Partnership Board.

## **Appendix A - Statutory duties for securing EHCP Part F SEN provision**

1. An Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP) is separated into twelve parts which detail the education, health and social care needs and provision necessary to meet a child or young person's special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).
2. The description of the child or young person's special educational needs go into Section B. The LA is responsible for securing the provision to meet those needs which are detailed in Section F of the EHCP (See s42(2) Children and Families Act 2014)
3. [Para 9.73 SEND Code of Practice 2015](#) states that 'Health or social care provision which educates or trains a child or young person must be treated as special educational provision and included in Section F of the EHC plan'.
4. [Para 9.74 SEND Code of Practice 2015](#) states 'since communication is so fundamental in education, addressing speech and language impairment should normally be recorded as special educational provision unless there are exceptional reasons for not doing so'.
5. [Para 9.76 SEND Code of Practice 2015](#) states that 'In cases where health care provision or social care provision is to be treated as special educational provision, ultimate responsibility for ensuring that the provision is made rests with the local authority'.

## **Appendix B – Joint commissioning costings for securing Speech and Language Therapy provision outlined in Part F of Education Health and Care Plans**

The below costings are based on prescribed Speech and Language Therapy interventions within current EHC Plans open on the Speech and Language Therapy caseload of **1220** in total as of March 2023. The trend for requests for assessment is upwards.

The prescribed interventions from Speech and Language Therapy staff would include the provision of the following direct and indirect work based on definitions in the current advice templates used by the Speech and Language Therapy Team.

1. **Direct Provision** – anything the therapist needs to do to support the child to meet the outcomes on the EHCP
  - Annual Review / Assessment / Intervention / Therapy
  - Home Visits
  - Direct 1:1s with child
  - Target setting
  - Liaison with parents
  - Liaison with school staff
  - New referral processing
  - Liaison with wider professionals
  - Coaching for staff/parents
  - Training for education staff on specific interventions and approaches as prescribed
  - Report writing
  
2. **Indirect Provision – provided by** the key adults supporting the child daily, specific to supporting their speech language and communication needs.
  - Advice to Education to access appropriate external training courses. (therapist)
  - Administration relating to advices. Please note the item below is included in the template as indirect provision but is not provided by the therapist.
  - Provision of support by key adults in the child’s everyday communication environment - outlined by the therapist in the EHCP.
  - The Speech and Language therapist will provide progress information that will feed in to the EHCP Annual Review

## Costings to commence within 2024/25

Recurrent funding agreement to enable the recruitment and retention of substantive staff. This option provides a sustainable solution and is likely to deliver the most rapid recruitment rates.

These arrangements will be jointly evaluated and reviewed during the 2024/2025 period.

Staff Pay		
Role	WTE Required	Annual Staff Cost from Q1 24/25 <small>(Inc. on-costs, based on 23/24 Agenda for Change pay-scales)</small>
Band 7 Speech Therapist	1	£57,495.00
Band 6 Speech Therapist	2	£93,375.00
Band 5 Speech Therapist	2	£75,984.72
Band 4 Technical Instructor	4.6	£156,138.17
<b>Direct Clinical Delivery TOTAL</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>£382,992.89</b>
Band 3 Administrator	0.6	£17,813.95
<b>Support TOTAL</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>£17,813.95</b>
<b>Staff Pay TOTAL</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>£400,806.84</b>
<b>Non-Pay</b>		
	Mobile Phones	£4,800
	Travel	£20,040
	EBITDA (14%)	£59,590.61
	<b>Non-Pay TOTAL</b>	<b>£84,430.61</b>
	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>£485,237.45</b>