

**London Borough of Bromley**

**PART 1 - PUBLIC**

**Briefing for Education Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee  
Tuesday 12 November 2013**

**SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY INFORMATION  
BRIEFING**

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Chief Officer: Executive Director of Education, Care & Health Services

**1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report has been written to inform the Education Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee on specific issues as identified by the Committee in relation to the speech and language therapy (SLT) within Bromley schools.
- 1.2 Bromley Clinical Commissioning Group (BCCG) has a duty to provide community healthcare and for this purpose they commission a contract with Bromley Healthcare (BHC) to deliver SLT through outpatient clinics, in pre schools and in schools.
- 1.3 The Council has a duty to ensure children and young people with special education needs (SEN) are able to access education, which extends to a duty to facilitate access by way of appropriate intervention.
- 1.4 The BCCG contract offers insufficient capacity to ensure that this duty can be fulfilled and the Council therefore commissions a separate contract with Bromley Healthcare to supplement the BCCG provision.

**2. THE BRIEFING**

**2.1 Historical demand for SLT service**

- 2.2 There were 1700 new referrals to the speech and language service between April 2011 and March 2012
- 2.3 There were 1678 new referrals to the service between April 2012 and March 2013
- 2.4 In addition to the above, during this period of time (April 2012 and March 2013) there have been 6 drop-in sessions per month within the Family and Children's Centres for pre-school children who have not already been referred to the service.
- 2.5 From 1st April 2011 to 30th March 2012, 287 children attended these drop ins and from 1st April 2012 to 30th March 2013, 328 children attended these drop ins

2.6 The current case load for all of the SLT service in October 2013 is 2631, of which roughly one quarter is of preschool age.

## **2.7 History of funding for the provision of the SLT service**

2.8 The Bromley Clinical Commissioning Group (BCCG) commissions an agreed annual activity level on a block contract basis for a community based SLT service. This is provided within community clinic settings, the home, pre-schools, family and children's centres and schools according to the needs of the child. This is an assessment and intervention service.

2.9 The service head allocates the BCCG resource across the community according to need. This includes SLT provision to named special schools and provisions (Appendix One)

2.10 BHC also has a contract with LBB for the provision of SLT (and some OT) to named special schools and specialist provisions (Appendix Two) and to 30 named pupils with significant speech and language impairment within Reception Year and Year 1 in mainstream schools. This contract runs until the end of July 2014.

## **2.11 SEN schools and provisions;**

There is an increased demand for SLT in specialist provisions in Bromley. For example in the school year starting September 2013 there are increased numbers of children with SLT needs attending Riverside ASD Orpington year 7 and 8. Hayes Speech and Language Provision opened for 7 pupils and currently has 16 on their case load. Both these provisions increase year by year, as the number of classes grows. Princes Plain specialist provision has increased pupil numbers at key stage 2 and there is a demand for SLT intervention within the pupil resource units. Some limited therapy intervention is currently provided at Burwood and Grovelands.

## **2.12 Future demand levels for the service**

2.13 The report to members in Summer 2012 highlighted the need for increased secondary ASD school places in the borough. It expected that there will be a commensurate increase in the level of speech and language therapy required to facilitate learning in these specialist places.

2.14 Officers are considering what level of increase in SLT to support these extra places in borough will be necessary. It is envisaged that as more pupils remain in borough a level of savings will release a proportion of the budget to resource this increased capacity.

## **2.15 Referral processes for the service**

2.16 The SLT Service has an open referral system, taking referrals from parents/carers or any other professionals, providing permission is obtained from parents/carers.

2.17 Children entering a specialist provision are generally already known to the BHC pre-school or mainstream school SLT service. They would therefore be transferred to the specialist provision concerned and would be seen within the first 2 – 3 weeks.

2.18 Children in a specialist provision who are not previously known to the service and who are subsequently referred will be seen within the first three weeks.

## **2.19 Home link in the service provision to ensure parents / carers are involved in the therapy delivery**

2.20 The service works not only with school staff but also with parents and carers. This is one of the key performance indicators that is reported on for the contract with LBB.

This is done in a number of ways:-

- All new targets and speech and language therapy advice is copied to parents and carers.
- Therapists will attend SEN annual reviews if they are arranged on days that therapists are in the provision
- Therapists offer parents the opportunities to meet to discuss their child's progress or to discuss this on the telephone.
- Parents are also offered the opportunity to attend one of their children's therapy appointments.
- Where possible, therapists will attend parents' evenings.
- Therapists can also offer training courses to parents.

## **2.21 Resource Allocation**

2.22 SLT delivery responds flexibly to increases and decreases in pupils numbers across specialist provisions to ensure that changing needs are met from within existing resources.