

Children's Sensory Team detailed information for local offer **(updated December 2016)**

Shaping the Children's Sensory Team in consultation with children and young people and their families

The Children's Sensory Team is a well-established service which is continually seeking to develop and improve. Over the years we have offered a wide range of meetings and activities to children and young people with sensory impairment and their parents. We now hold Local Offer meetings and all parents are invited to attend. Children and young people across the age and ability range are consulted about the service we provide. In addition we encourage contact via email or the Local Offer website. We aim to shape our service in light of their contributions.

Brief description of service

The Children's Sensory Team (CST) works with children and young people (CYP) with sensory impairment (CYPSI) from birth to 25 Years.

CYPSI can be: Deaf, blind, hearing impaired, vision impaired and multi-sensory impaired (both hearing and vision needs). The children and young people may or may not have other needs in addition to their sensory impairment.

Please note that CYP with auditory processing disorder (APD) are given one off advice from CST and the loan of a personal amplification system if required which will be monitored by CST's audiology technician.

We see children and young people in their homes, play-groups, children centres, nurseries, schools, colleges and sometimes attend hospital appointments. We are a team of qualified teachers, and we have all had experience of working in mainstream and/or special school. We all have an additional specialist teaching qualification in hearing impairment or vision impairment or multi-sensory impairment (or are currently training). The team also includes other specialist sensory staff with additional qualifications e.g. a signing and communication tutor, an audiology technician, a resource co-ordinator and a mobility specialist.

CST teachers update their specialist knowledge through continuous professional development (CPD).

CST teachers offer assessment, support, strategies, identification and provision of resources, advice regarding the sensory impairment, close work with hospital staff, advice for statutory assessment, transition planning, access arrangement advice for examinations, a wide range of training and specialist teaching.

1. What do we do?

The aim of our team is to improve the inclusive opportunities and educational outcomes of CYPSI resident in Harrow:

We do this by ensuring that CYPSI:

- have their needs assessed and identified as early as possible
- receive, directly or indirectly, any necessary specialist input from appropriately qualified personnel
- have appropriate resources and access arrangements in place
- are involved in the setting of clear targets that focus on outcomes
- have a continuum of support
- have school staff that receive, and can access, the advice and support they require to feel confident and competent in achieving improved outcomes for CYPSI with whom they work
- have CST and school staff working in accordance with the new SEND Code of Practice
- receive co-ordinated and effectively delivered support from other services should they require it.

We can:

- offer support and advice to families about their child's sensory impairment
- gain medical information directly from the specialist hospitals to help explain a shared understanding of the sensory impairment
- provide assessments regarding the child or young person's sensory impairment
- write advice and provide strategies to support children in their learning and development
- initiate and/or contribute advice to an Educational Health Care Plan (EHC plan)
- provide specialist equipment when needed e.g. video magnifiers, personal amplification systems
- teach Braille and British Sign Language as appropriate
- train teachers and other professionals about sensory impairment
- liaise with parents and other professionals
- provide awareness raising sessions for peers
- attend meetings and reviews
- support through transition stages
- identify the CYPSI's needs in order to assess whether they are eligible to receive additional input/support from CST's:
 - sign and communication tutor to aid communication if hearing

- impaired/Deaf
 - Audiology technician to support successful use of personal amplification systems
 - resource technician to support access to print materials via audio, large print, braille etc
 - mobility officer to increase independence if visually impaired /blind
- offer opportunities for CYPSI and their parents to help us develop our service
- offer opportunities for parents of CYPSI to meet other parents of CYPSI in a variety of ways and grouping
- refer some CYP with hearing impairment, who may require input to the Speech and Language Therapy Team. This is usually via a referral from audiology and occasionally by CST. The speech and language therapy team then applies their own criteria to establish where the CYPSI meets the thresholds for involvement
- refer some CYPSI and their families who require additional support form Harrow's social care teams
- signpost or refer families to other services and other organisations

In addition to this we offer the following to:

CYPSI aged 0-5 years

- A commitment to early intervention
- Preschool sensory group at Cedars Children's Centre
- Sensory room training for parents and individual sessions
- Home and/or preschool placement visits
- Preschool specific assessments and advice
- Monitoring of preschool development
- Training to key professionals

CYPSI aged 5-16 years

- Support in the school setting
- Specific advice regarding access to the curriculum offered
- Opportunities for CYPSI to talk about their individual sensory impairment
- Support regarding the CYPSI's emotional well-being
- Some social activities details which are mailed out to families
- Training to all school staff and peers

2. Additional Resource Bases In Harrow Schools

Resource Bases in Harrow for CYP with hearing impairment

CYP with hearing impairment or Deafness who have an EHC plan may be eligible

to attend Cedars Manor Primary School or Hatch End High School. Both these schools are additionally resourced with a Deaf resource base with qualified teachers of the Deaf based in the school. All school staff receive regular training on Deaf awareness and inclusive strategies.

Resource Bases in Harrow for CYP with Vision Impairment

There are no additionally resourced bases for CYP with vision impairment in Harrow.

3. CYPSI who are educated in specialist provision in Harrow

- CYPSI attending Woodlands, Kingsley or Shaftesbury special schools will receive the full range of support from CST.
- In addition to this Kingsley special school have qualified teachers for CYP with vision impairment based on site.

4. CYPSI who are educated in specialist sensory provision outside the local area

- It is expected that the specialist school provides the specialist equipment if it is their area of specialism. E.g. personal amplification systems, if required, in a school for the Deaf or Brailers if a school for the blind. If the CYPSI is not placed in a specialist school for their sensory impairment an individual agreement will be made.
- CST will carry out a monitoring visit once a year. This may be at the review meeting or another agreement will be made.

5. CYPSI in local private education

- Young people can receive the full range of provision for their individual sensory needs **with and without** an EHC plan. Assessment for specialist equipment and resources will be carried out and provided if required e.g. personal amplification systems, electronic magnifiers and some alternative print formats. There will be a charge for this service for CYPSI without an EHC plan from April 2015.

6. CYP without EHCP in 'out of borough' schools

CYP without an EHCP who attend 'out of borough' schools are usually visited by the teacher for children with sensory impairment of the authority the school is in via a reciprocal arrangement.

Equipment for these children which falls into the category of a 'reasonable'

adjustment e.g. laptop, sloping board etc. will be provided by the school. Specialist equipment required to support the CYP with sensory impairment may only be provided by CST if identified by an advisory teacher for sensory impairment e.g. FM system, hand held magnifier.

7. Post 16 provision

If the young person remains a Harrow resident and attends a...

School Based Sixth Form in Harrow or St. Dominic's College

- CST will provide advice for transition to the next placement for all young people with a sensory impairment known to the team.
- Young people will continue to receive the full range of provision for their individual sensory needs **with and without** a Section 139a form or an EHC plan. Specialist equipment and resources will continue to be provided e.g. personal amplification systems, electronic magnifiers and some alternative print formats.

Out of Borough School Based Sixth Form

- CST will provide advice for transition to the next placement for all young people with a sensory impairment known to the team.
- The support for young people attending further education colleges **with** a Section 139 arrangement or an EHC plan support and specialist equipment will continue to be provided by CST (if the college is a reasonable distance from Harrow) unless an agreement was reached with the college that they can meet the individual need or that a formal agreement is made with the local authority college is based in. The young person's details will be passed onto the sensory team in that area if this is the case.
- The support for young people attending further education colleges **without** a Section 139a Form arrangement or an EHC plan will be provided by the hosting local authority. With consent the young person's details will be passed from CST onto the College / sensory team in that area as part of the transition plan. The college have a duty to ensure the young person's needs are met. Equipment will be provided by the college.

Stanmore College in Harrow

- CST will provide advice for transition to the next placement for all young people with a sensory impairment known to the team.

- The support for young people with sensory impairment attending further education colleges **with** a Section 139a form arrangement or an EHC plan will continue to be provided by CST if identified in the CYPPI's EHC plan.
- The support for young people attending further education colleges **without** a Section 139 arrangement or an EHC plan will be provided by Stanmore College. With consent the young person's details will be passed from CST onto the college. The college has a duty to ensure the young person's sensory needs are met.

Harrow College in Harrow

- CST will provide advice for transition to the next placement for all young people with a sensory impairment known to the team.
- The support for young people with vision impairment attending further education colleges **with** a Section 139a form arrangement or an EHC plan will continue to be provided by CST if this has been identified as a need in their plans.
- The support for young people with hearing impairment attending further education colleges **with** a Section 139a Form arrangement or an EHC plan will be provided by Harrow College as they have specialist provision for students with hearing impairment.
- The support for young people attending further education colleges **without** a Section 139a Form arrangement or an EHC plan will be provided by Harrow College as they have specialist provision for students with hearing impairment. With consent the young person's details will be passed from CST onto the college. The college has a duty to ensure the young person's sensory needs are met. The college may choose to buy in CST for advice.

Further Education College or a non-school based sixth form College outside of the Local authority

- CST will provide advice for transition to the next placement for all young people with a sensory impairment known to the team.
- The support for young people with sensory impairment attending further education colleges **with** a Section 139a form arrangement or an EHC plan will continue to be provided by CST if this has been identified as a need in the Section 139a form arrangement or an EHC plan. This support can be provided by another service if an agreement is set up.
- The support for young people attending further education colleges **without** a Section 139 arrangement or an EHC plan will be provided by the college, they are attending. With consent the young person's details will be passed from CST onto the college. The college has a duty to ensure the young

person's sensory needs are met.

Training for Colleges

- Training and advice can be purchased from CST if the college inclusion team decide to do so and providing CST has capacity to provide for students without an EHC plan.

University

- CST will provide advice and information for transition to university regarding their sensory impairment for all young people with a sensory impairment known to the team.
- CST involvement ceases and the support needs for the young person is provided by the university they attend.

Work place apprenticeships

- CYP **with** an EHC plan who are still in education via a work place apprenticeship will be supported by advice only by CST if outlined in their EHC plan.

8. Auxiliary Aids

- Some specialist sensory equipment is provided by CST e.g. personal amplification systems, braille note takers, braille embossers, talking scales, talking calculators, video magnifiers, monitors for white board accessibility, access to listening books services etc. The need for this equipment is assessed by the advisory teachers for CYP with hearing impairment and/or vision impairment and ordered through the CST budget. CYP do not need a statement or EHC plan to access this service but must be formally referred to CST because of their vision impairment and/or hearing impairment
- CST **does not** provide laptops or electronic tablets as this falls under the remit of schools/colleges as they are required to provide access to the IT systems available to other students. It is a schools decision whether or not to provide (or indeed if its necessary) electronic books to give access to books through their school library.
- CST **does not** provide sound field systems in schools. This can be provided by the school if the school decides to purchase this system as it benefits all CYP

- CST provides sensory equipment that would not normally be available in a school

9. Mobility / habilitation provision

- CYP with a vision impairment who need support and training to become more independent when travelling around their school or to and from school will have their needs identified by CST's advisory teacher for vision impairment. This will then trigger access to training sessions to support this.
- On the CYP's 18th birthday they will transfer over to the adult sensory services in Harrow.

10. To apply/register/request this service.

We have an open referral system. This means that pupils, parents/carers and professionals can all refer to us.

If you are concerned about your child's hearing and/or vision, please visit your child's doctor and request a referral to an audiology and/or ophthalmology department.

If your child has had a sensory impairment diagnosed then you (or the professionals involved) can refer them to CST via our CST referral and consent form or a hospital letter initially and our CST referral and consent.

Once referred the child or young person with sensory impairment will be assessed by a specialist sensory teacher in order to identify what support they will require from the Children's Sensory Team.

The child or young person being referred must live in Harrow (or an agreement must be in place from their residing local authority with Harrow Council), have a sensory impairment and be between 0 - 25 years of age.

Professionals refer babies, who have been identified through the New Born Hearing Screening Programme or from vision assessments carried out soon after birth and prior to starting school. Other families move into Harrow or children have a diagnosis later on in their childhood and maybe referred to CST then.

Referral form attached. This must be sent to CST. Please see address below.

The list of schools and colleges can be found on the main Harrow Local Offer website at www.harrow.gov.uk/localoffer

Please contact:

CST@harrow.gov.uk

Children's Sensory Team
Alexandra Avenue Health & Care Centre,
275 Alexandra Avenue,
South Harrow,
Middlesex,
HA2 9DX
020 8966 6370

For deaf or partially hearing callers:

We welcome communication via email, fax, text or by using the Text Relay Service:

[Tel: 0800 7311 88](tel:0800731188)

Textphone: 0800 500 888

Email: helpline@textrelay.org