

		AGENDA ITEM 7
		CYP/29/11
Committee:	Children and Young People Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
Date:	29 September 2011	
<u>Speech and Language</u>		
Enquiries to:	Graham Redgwell Governance Officer 01245 430360 <a href="mailto:grahamr@essex.gov.uk">grahamr@essex.gov.uk</a>	

The provision of Speech and Language has been reviewed over the past year.

The following outcomes were set to be achieved by September 2011:

- To develop county wide **objectives** for speech and language provision;
- Develop five **specifications** in collaboration with five Health Providers taking in to account the varying ways in which they work;
- To have better knowledge about the **budget** for speech and language for a year and the full picture of spot purchase requests;
- To carry out and **audit** of need of speech, language and communication difficulties across Essex;
- To develop **closer working** with the Health Providers.

### Objectives

Health and Local Authority priorities for children with statements have been established in order to address need.

Local Authority priorities are:-

- Statemented pupils with acute Speech and Language needs in Special School Provision.
- Children in mainstream schools with statements that specify speech and language needs (part 3 of the statement)

Health priorities are:

Children in mainstream schools with statements that specify speech and language needs (Part 6 of the statement).

### Specifications

Progress on the specifications has been good. An overall generic model which captures Health and Education county wide objectives has been agreed by all PCTs.

Each specification then carries PCT/Education Area specific targets.

The specification is now fully completed for Anglian Community Enterprise (formerly NE Essex PCT) and South East Essex PCT.

Discussions are continuing in relation to South Essex Partnership Trust (Sept - West Essex PCT) and Central Essex Community Services (CECS-Mid Essex PCT) There are gaps in provision and some weaknesses in accountability for funding which officers are engaged in resolving.

### **Audits**

An audit was carried out to compare what other LAs fund health providers for the provision of speech and language therapy. (Included at the end of this update) From conversations with other authorities it was clear that for those authorities who do fund the health provider to provide a speech and language therapy service there is a firm grasp of how the money is being spent achieved by regular review and discussions with the Health Provider(s).

A recent audit of statements across Essex where speech, language and communication difficulties are listed has highlighted the following issues:

- A large proportion of children have speech, language or communication difficulties in their statement as an additional category.
- Most therapy intervention is indirect; the therapist contributes to a child's plan and may review on a termly basis or at annual review;
- The following objectives have been set as a result of this audit;
- Work will be undertaken to ensure that all SLT needs, not just the main category of need, that all SLT needs, are recorded on the SAS data base (SAS Service target 2011/12)
- A joint project to pilot 'in class' group support for SLT needs will be under taken 2011/12 (Health Education SLT project target 2011/12)

### **To Develop Closer Working with Health Providers:**

There have been changes to the Health Providers in recent months. North East Essex is now Anglian Community Enterprise (ACE) and Mid Essex is now Central Essex Community Services (CECS). West Essex Has moved in to South Essex Partnership Trust (SEPT).

Good progress has been made with four out of five of the Health Providers in terms of the working relationship. Written and verbal communication has been very open and honest with both parties accepting each other's professional opinions and understanding statutory duties for the service they commission or provide. Attendance of both commissioners and providers at many of the meetings has been positive.

## Budget

An LA officer with a clearer understanding of the budgeting for specialist provision is now responsible for the budget.

Area	Funds set up	Cost £
ACE	2011/12 allocated budget for Speech Therapy	£17,637
South Essex	Combined budget to develop Every Child a Talker for SE and SW Essex	£30,000
CECS	<p>* 2011 /12 allocated budget for Speech Therapy</p> <p>* Additional spot purchase commitments at present have been set at this cost for the current summer term only (this is in addition to the above mentioned budget) High levels of spot purchasing are shown due to limited services offered in mainstream schools.</p> <p>** Therefore combining allocated and spot purchase commitments the total cost for CES will be:</p>	<p>*£137,304</p> <p>*£52,967</p> <p>** £190,271</p>
West Essex	<p>*Set funds to provide Speech and Language Therapy for children with statements.</p> <p>*Additional spot purchase commitments at present have been set at this for the current summer term only.</p> <p>** Therefore combining allocated funds and spot purchase commitments the total cost for West Essex will be:</p>	<p>£119,992</p> <p>£52,967</p> <p>£172,959</p>

\*\* A concern is that the spot purchase recoupment totals listed for CECS and SEPT are only for one term. If this rate continues then we can expect significantly increased expenditure for speech therapy before the end of March 2012.

### Further Objectives set for the future are as follows:

- To ensure all specifications are competed and agreed by both the LA and health providers by June 2011 (service target 2011/12)
- Statutory assessment teams: To ensure there is appropriate monitoring of children's statements specifically re Speech and Language Therapy input (service target 2011/12)
- To reduce the number of spot purchase in Mid and West Essex. This will need a review of the suitability of the providers that are commissioned. (SLT Project target 2011/12)
- To continue benchmarking SLT provision in Essex with other authorities (SLT Project target 2011/12)

(See Appendix 1, below, re Other Local Authorities Speech Therapy Funding)

## **Other Local Authority's Speech Therapy Funding**

Essex County Council's funding provided to the Primary Care Trusts has been benchmarked against other Local Authorities.

In Essex for the 2011-2012 financial year £238,941 has been delegated to the Primary Care Trusts. However there are still many recoupment requests being sent to the Local Authority.

Freedom of information requests were sent to other Local Authorities. The first tranche went to statistical neighbours of Essex.

- Kent
- Worcestershire
- Swindon
- North Somerset
- Warwickshire
- Staffordshire
- Hampshire
- Leicestershire

Five other Local Authorities were contacted due to lack of an initial response from the statistical neighbours; Surrey, Dorset, Gloucester, Norfolk and Suffolk. Many statistical neighbours have since responded and their answers are in this report.

Some of the local Authorities responded with funding information and loose descriptions of the way the funding is managed. This is as follows:

### **North Somerset - £0**

North Somerset does not fund speech therapy as it is seen primarily as a health need.

### **Kent - £0**

Kent does not fund speech therapy as it is seen primarily as a health need. They do joint commission approximately £350 towards a 'Communication Interaction Service' for Alternative Augmentative Communication (AAC) resources in special schools. However this is **not** solely for speech and language therapy and funds educational psychologists and other professionals as well as tangible resources.

### **Surrey - £1,747,000**

Services are provided by two NHS providers, Surrey Community Health and Central Surrey Health.

Of the total amount the money is divided into three amounts:

- Surrey Community Health - £1,070,174
- Central Surrey Health - £575,000
- Private therapy – approximately £92,000

In the joint commissioning funding there are 'individual placement agreements' where groups of named children have funding allocated, then therapy for a fixed period. This is reviewed each year and the provision officer is responsible for meeting with the health providers to look at priorities.

Each term the provision officer meets with the Health provider to look at priorities.

### **Staffordshire - £280,253**

For 2010-2011 financial year Speech & Language contracts with both North and South Staffs PCT total £280,253

(Special School Nurses with both North and South Staffs PCT total £274,644)

### **Swindon - £475K**

Swindon allocates £457k to speech therapy. The PCT is now TUPed over to Swindon County Council so now technically work for the LA but they have always had a good working relationship. Funding comes to the LA 'pot' from a variety of sources:

- £136K provided by the borough council which funds:
  - Specific language difficulties
  - Children with statements of special education needs
  - Autism
  - A language centre
  - AAC
  - Special schools
- Special schools **supplement** the therapy that is already in place by paying for additional provision
- £50K comes from the hospital and this funds a child development centre for children with disabilities led by a paediatrician.
- The Down Syndrome Association

### **Warwickshire – £274K**

Warwickshire Children's Trust funds the provider £274,000 in return for provision of a speech therapy service. All funding is based on Area Based Grant allocations. If Services are not delivered for any reason the Provider will repay the County Council any part of the payment that has not been spent in accordance with this agreement.

### **Dorset - £182K**

Dorset split £182k funding in to enhanced provisions and also packages of support which includes special schools, which effectively means the special schools' budget is top sliced to fund this. Levels of support are agreed with the PCT during termly meetings with the LA. The PCT provides this support and then invoices the LA for this to the agreed amount.

### **Suffolk – Commissioned £140K**

Suffolk County Council does not provide funding to health providers for therapy. However it does commission services for therapy from them. They spent approximately £140,000 on Speech and Language Therapy services in last financial year 2010/11.

**Gloucester - £177,382**

This is broken down in to:

- Hearing impairment
- Communication and interaction needs
- Attending communication and interaction centres
- Special Schools
- Early Years hearing impairment
- ATS project Learning Together

**Norfolk - £409,700**

Norfolk operates using two PCT's (Norfolk Community Health and Care and Great Yarmouth Community Health and Care). They pay on invoice both organisations as per a contract (NCH&C £384,700 and GYCH&C £125,000) for Speech & Language Therapy services. In the last audit they provided services for 1,151 children requiring Speech and Language Therapy. Norfolk is currently working with the provider around altering the arrangements with a view to setting the pathways for the service to lend themselves to a much clearer route such as the possibility of budgets sitting within individual schools.

**Hertfordshire- £2,076,848 (2010-2011)**

This includes a grant of £295,000 which ended 31<sup>st</sup> march 2011.