

SEND Support Services November 2017

Northumberland's Special Educational Needs and Disability Support Services include:

- **Psychological Services**
- **Speech, Language and Communication Service**
- **Literacy Support Service**
- **Behaviour Support Service**
- **Autism Support Service**
- **Sensory Service**
- **Portage Service**



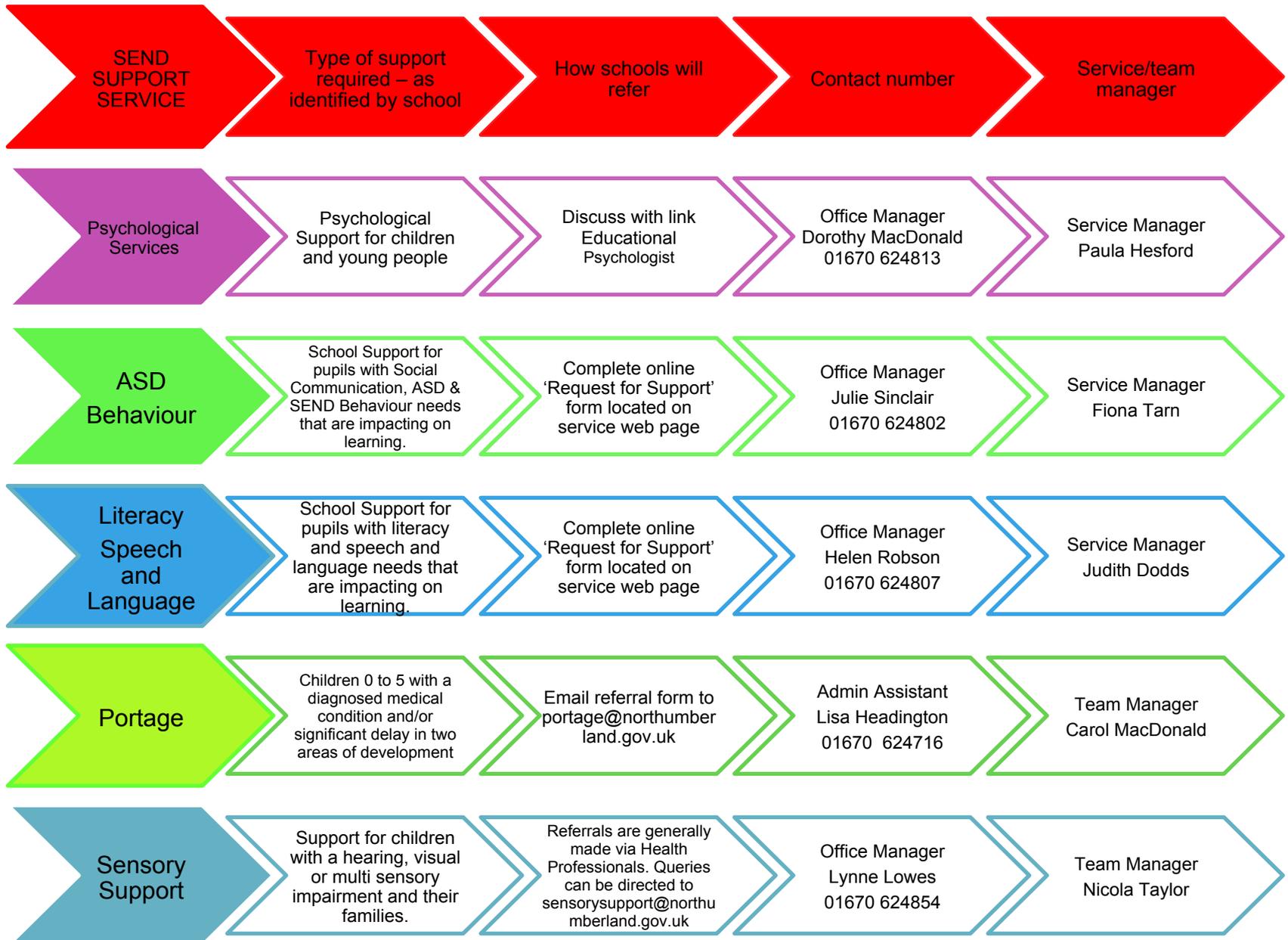
Requesting support from SEND support services

The SEND Code of Practice offers guidance as to when further support should be sought by schools from SEND support services. Differentiated and personalised high quality teaching will meet the needs of the majority of children and young people.

Where there is a need for, 'additional to and different from', schools and colleges, 'must use their best endeavours to ensure that such provision is made for those who need it'.

SEND support should take the form of Assess-Plan-Do-Review to enable good progress and good outcomes.

When schools make a referral into SEND Services, they are expected to demonstrate what has been offered within school to support the needs of the pupil.



Northumberland SEND Support Services

Speech, Language & Communication Team

The Speech, Language and Communication Team offer bespoke support to schools where there are children whose spoken language difficulties are affecting their progress in the classroom.

The team comprises: four Specialist Teacher/Therapists, a Speech & Language Therapist and eight Specialist Speech & Language Teaching Assistants.

Support from the Team may include: a speech and language assessment, individual targeted work relating to spoken language (usually delivered by a Specialist Teaching Assistant), group interventions, provision of advice and strategies explicitly linked to the curriculum, resource sharing, support for parents and carers, as well as a comprehensive range of bespoke, licensed and accredited training for school staff e.g. Elklan, Early Talk Boost, KS1 & KS2 Talk Boost.

Support is offered for children with delayed or disordered speech and language, children with a diagnosis of autism as well as children whose phonological awareness difficulties are impacting upon their literacy acquisition. In relation to an individual child, responses will typically include a comprehensive report containing assessment information, contributions from school, parent and the young person, recommendations for interventions and resources as appropriate, as well as advice and strategies to support teaching staff in their classroom practice. A wide range of accredited and published training is available for professionals, supporting school and professional development.

Following the purchase of a Service Level Agreement (SLA) a school will have access to a named Specialist Teacher/Therapist with whom they can discuss issues relating to whole school development/training or concerns relating to individual pupils. The Specialist Teacher/Therapist will work with school to negotiate and prioritise areas of work as part of planning discussions/meetings in the Autumn term. Once these are agreed, school will then be able to complete the necessary request for support forms electronically and send them to the service inbox where they will be processed and the work can begin.

Northumberland SEND Support Services

Literacy (Dyslexia) Support Team

The Literacy Team supports the teaching of literacy skills for designated pupils, individually or in small groups and facilitates the inclusion of pupils with specific learning difficulties (Dyslexia).

The team aims to develop and enhance the skills and practices of staff in school to assist them in supporting pupils with literacy difficulties. This may comprise observation, assessment and intervention advice including ICT/digital resources where appropriate.

Our bespoke training offer includes: Phonics, Approaches to Spelling and Assessment for eligibility for exam access arrangements.

Team members liaise closely with parents/carers, school staff and the young person to promote successful inclusion in the classroom. Written reports are provided identifying specific needs of individuals and offering recommendations of ways to support literacy development through quality first teaching and targeted/ individual interventions.

Following the purchase of a Service Level Agreement (SLA) a school will have access to a named Specialist Teacher with whom they can discuss issues relating to whole school development/training or concerns relating to individual pupils. The Specialist Teacher will work with school to negotiate and prioritise areas of work as part of planning discussions/meetings in the Autumn term. Once these are agreed, school will then be able to complete the necessary request for support forms electronically and send them to the service inbox where they will be processed and the work can begin.

Northumberland SEND Support Services

Psychological Services

The purpose of Psychological Services is to promote the emotional, cognitive and personal development of children and young people through the application of psychology. Our aim is to develop the capacity of schools and settings to achieve better outcomes for all children.

We support the adults involved in the lives of children and young people to:

- Prevent additional/special educational needs and requirements developing
- Intervene early where additional/special educational needs and requirements are identified
- Support those with ongoing additional needs and requirements.

We work with schools to identify and remove barriers to learning for children and young people and to jointly problem solve complex situations that have become 'stuck' with the aim being to move things forward and achieve positive outcomes. We work directly with individual children and young people to carry out assessments and interventions where this is thought to be helpful and are keen to include the voice of the child in any work we undertake. We offer training to schools on particular themes identified through their development plans.

Following the purchase of a Service Level Agreement (SLA), a school will have access to a named psychologist with whom they can discuss issues relating to whole school development/training or concerns relating to individual pupils. The psychologist will work with schools to negotiate and prioritise areas of work as part of planning discussions/meetings in the autumn term. Once these are agreed, schools will then be able to complete the necessary request for support forms electronically and send them to the Psychological Services inbox where they will be processed and the work can begin.

Northumberland SEND Support Services

Sensory Support Service

The Sensory Support Service offers and provides support to children and young people 0-25 who have diagnosed vision, hearing or multi sensory impairments (deafblindness). The Equalities Act 2010 defines all sensory impairments as disabilities. Work includes close liaison with colleagues in Health to ensure the provision of suitable technology, the maintenance and oversight of specialist equipment, direct teaching interventions over the long term, assessment of the impact of the sensory impairment on learning in educational settings, support for families, and an extensive range of advice and training for schools and settings.

Members of staff all hold (or are working towards) the mandatory specialist qualifications for teachers of sensory impaired children and young people, and many hold additional qualifications, ensuring that the team meets the requirements of the Code of Practice 2014 with regard to the assessment and teaching of this vulnerable group.

Team members work closely with parents/carers offering bespoke packages of support for short, medium and long term interventions based on the need of the pupil and setting. Dependent upon need this will extend to visits several times per week, or may be as little as annual oversight. Emotional wellbeing and full access to the curriculum are the aspiration for all, and where appropriate, this is supported by the provision of termly intervention plans prepared in conjunction with class teachers and learning support assistants and/or regular written reports containing advice and guidance.

Referrals usually come via Health (Audiology and ENT departments at Freeman Hospital, or Ophthalmology at RVI), but the Service welcomes enquiries from schools and other professionals in order to guide through referrals, or provide training into schools and settings.

Currently (2017-18) provision of support from Sensory Support to schools sits outside the SEND SLA.

Northumberland SEND Support Services

Autism Support Team

The Autism Support Team support children and young people who have social communication difficulties or a diagnosis of Autism/Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

The team aims to develop and enhance the skills and practices of staff and improve outcomes for children and young people with social communication/ASD being taught in educational settings across Northumberland.

The support we offer is generally bespoke to the individual, family or school and may comprise of a combination of: observation, assessment, recommendation of strategies and approaches to enhance access to the curriculum, resource sharing, support for parents and carers, as well as a comprehensive range of training packages for professionals. We offer Cygnet Training for parents of children with a diagnosis of ASD. Team members liaise closely with parents/carers, school staff and the young person to promote successful inclusion in the classroom. Written reports are provided outlining key observations and information and strategies and approaches that should be incorporated into teaching programmes and classroom practice.

Following the purchase of a Service Level Agreement (SLA), a school will have access to a named Specialist Teacher with whom they can discuss issues relating to whole school development/training or concerns relating to individual pupils. The Specialist Teacher will work with schools to negotiate and prioritise areas of work as part of planning discussions/meetings in the autumn term. Once these are agreed, schools will then be able to complete the necessary request for support forms electronically and send them to the service inbox where they will be processed and the work can begin.

Northumberland SEND Support Services

Behaviour Support Team

The Behaviour Support Team provide support and advice to schools and learners who may have social, emotional and behavioural difficulties as a result of a special educational need or disability. The team aims to develop and enhance the skills and practices of staff and improve outcomes for children and young people with social, emotional and behaviour needs being taught in educational settings across Northumberland.

The support offered is generally bespoke to the individual, family or school and may comprise of a combination of: observation, assessment, recommendation of strategies and approaches to enhance access to the curriculum, resource sharing, support for parents and carers, as well as a comprehensive range of training packages for professionals.

The Behaviour Support Team are qualified to deliver *Management of Actual and Potential Aggression* (MAPA) training. This training develops the skills and knowledge of school staff to enable them to effectively manage the needs of pupils displaying challenging behaviour. The team are able to provide examples of de-escalation strategies as well as offering advice on; the creation of positive handling plans, Independent Support Plans and appropriate reward and consequence systems; to be used by the whole school or to meet the needs of individual pupils.

Following the purchase of a Service Level Agreement (SLA), a school will have access to a named Specialist Teacher & Behaviour Support Worker with whom they can discuss issues relating to whole school development/training or concerns relating to individual pupils. The Specialist Teacher will work with schools to negotiate and prioritise areas of work as part of planning discussions/meetings in the autumn term. Once these are agreed, schools will then be able to complete the necessary request for support forms electronically and send them to the service inbox where they will be processed and the work can begin.

Northumberland SEND Support Services

Portage Service

Portage is a home teaching service for pre-school children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). It enables parents and carers to support their child's learning.

A Portage Home Visitor will visit the family home for approximately one hour each week. Following an initial assessment, long term goals and teaching activities are agreed with parents/carers to encourage and promote their child's development. The play based activities are planned and demonstrated by the Home Visitor and carried out during the week by parents/carers. Progress is regularly reviewed and celebrated.

The Portage Home Visitor will liaise with other involved professionals and the child's pre-school setting/school to share information and support transition.