

Reference Number: FOIAH2425/180
From: Private Individual
Date: 26 June 2024
Subject: Speech and Language

Q1 The total number of children under the age of 5 (Compulsory School Age) on your waiting list for speech therapy (including all of those who are yet to receive more than one individual Speech and Language Therapy (SALT) session/assessment)

A1 Acute SALT – 57

Community SALT-

Service	No of patients under the age of 5	No on wait list	No waiting for second contact
Children's SALT Sefton	603	397	206
Liverpool Children's SALT	869	619	250
Total	1,471	1,016	456

Q2 What parents are required to do before receiving a block of speech therapy sessions (attend a course, etc.)

A2 Acute SALT - Children require an assessment before commencing a block of therapy but there are no other specific requirements.

Community SALT - Referrals are triaged, and there is no requirement for parents / carers to do anything prior to being offered an assessment. For some under 3-year-olds, we may not accept the request for assessment, and we signpost / recommend they access targeted intervention for a period of time (3-6 months) and then if specialist support is still required, they can be re-referred.

Q3 What support you provide for children for whom an Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) device is deemed appropriate

A3 Acute SALT - We are not a specialist AAC service – we occasionally have an inpatient who requires a low or high tech AAC device – we have a small bank of loan devices including an eye gaze kit which can be used for assessment, temporary loan etc. We have a range of resources to produce low tech devices in house – Board maker and Widget, including the multi-language pack for speakers of languages other than English. We refer children to the ACE Centre North when more specialist assessment or advice is required. Children and families are supported to use these devices during an admission and are referred to their local Speech and Language Therapist (SLT) service on discharge if further advice and support is required.

Community SALT - Once a child / young person has been identified as potentially requiring an AAC, the SLT will assess, devise and implement a therapy plan on a total communication approach, early key word signing, visual supporters, objects of reference, and aided language boards.

Following this, if further AAC is required, one of the specialist SLTs will carry out dynamic assessments, devise a therapy plan and support parents and the setting to implement an AAC system, identify, liaise, and refer with appropriate partners for further management support/ assessment (ACE- Assessment of Comprehension and Expression and CAAT- Constraint Induced Aphasia Therapy), and carry out joint working with Multidisciplinary Teams (MDT).

As with all therapies we offer, AAC provision is bespoke to the child/ young person and their families, and once people are knowledgeable and skilled up to be able to continue to meet the long-term goals, they are discharged from the service, with guidance on when to re-refer for further support as and when needed

Q4 How many speech and language therapists (full time equivalent)

A4 Acute SALT - 10 Speech and Language Therapists (8.3 WTE's)

Community SALT - As of the 30th of June 2024, there are 53.72 WTE SLTs (including Head of Service) contracted to work into the Community SALT Service for Alder Hey.

Q5 How many young people under the age of 18 are under your service

A5 Acute SALT - 3,878 patients with open pathways under the age of 18

Community SALT - Below is the total number of children under the age of 18 under the SALT service including those who are awaiting an initial assessment:

Locality	No. of patients
Liverpool	3,237
Sefton	1,587
Total	4,824