

There are five pathways to access Speech and Language Therapy services in Halton. Children and Young People (C/YP) may follow one or more of these pathways simultaneously, and may be discharged from one pathway while continuing on another.

Primary Pathway

accessed via Request for Service.

Speech Language or Communication Need (SLCN) identified

Request for SLT services (RfS) due to SLCN

Triage of RfS

Assessment by an SLT with care plan. Risk score applied which determines intervention offered and timescales

Intervention may include:

- Provision of, or signposting to, resources
- Workshops for parents and professionals involved/
- Modelling or training for conversational partners
- Intervention sessions delivered by Speech and Language Therapists (SLTs) or SLT Assistants

Discharge when:

- C/YP's SLCN is within normal limits
- Intervention aims achieved
- Risk score indicates C/YP's SLCN can be managed by their daily communication partners
- Progress is limited by motivation for / engagement with our service
- Consent is withdrawn
- Family and / or educational setting does not engage
- C/YP moves out of the commissioned area

Swallowing need identified

Dysphagia referral made by medical professional

Contact with C/YP, parent/carer and/or referral agent within 5 working days of referral (with associated RfS) to arrange triage from a trained member of team

Triage which may result in booking an assessment or discharge from this pathway

Assessment undertaken where C/YP typically eats. Care plan created. Typically this will result in intervention, onward referral, review or discharge

A review may be face-face or via telephone, with the family/workforce of the C/YP. This may result in a further review/monitoring being scheduled or discharge

Discharge from dysphagia pathway when:

- Swallowing function is stable
- Family and educational setting are able to manage feeding
- Consent withdrawn
- Family and / or educational setting does not engage with the service or take up the appointments offered
- C/YP moves out of the commissioned area

If ongoing SLCN then continues on SLCN pathway

EHCP application where (SLCN) and assessment is required

Request via SENAT

If not known to our service, the request is returned to SENAT as a Request for Service (RfS) is needed for assessment to take place

Assessment by an SLT with report returned to SENAT, where possible, within 6 weeks of request

Discharged when:

- Report is submitted
- Consent is withdrawn/not obtained

If ongoing SLCN then continues on SLCN pathway

Referral to Bridgewater NHS for Neurodiversity Assessment

ASD pathway assessment request from MDT at Bridgewater NHS

Assessment of social communication skills by an SLT with report returned to the MDT

Discharge from ASD pathway when:

- Report is submitted and decision complete
- Consent is withdrawn

N.B. If ongoing SLCN then Request for Service is required

Youth Justice Service

Referrals received directly by Youth Justice Service team

SLT triages referrals to YJS to identify those who require YJS SLT services

Assessment undertaken by an SLT

Onward referrals to relevant agencies or for longer-term SLCN services

N.B. If ongoing SLCN then Request for Service is required

Discharge from YJS when:

- C/YP's SLCN is within normal limits
- Strategies are recommended and implemented
- YP moves out of area or into custody
- Support best supplied by another agency
- Consent is withdrawn