
Report To:	Education & Communities Committee	Date: 7 May 2013
Report By:	Corporate Director Education, Communities & OD	Report No: EDUCOM/56/13
Contact Officer:	Angela Edwards	Contact No: 01475 712828
Subject:	Speech & Language Therapy Contract 2013/2014	

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise members of the need to renew the Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) contract with the NHS for 2013 - 2014

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Individual children have a wide range of additional support needs as defined in the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Acts 2004 and 2009. A number of children and young people require additional support to meet their communication, speech and language needs. For some children and young people these needs might be defined in a Co-ordinated Support Plan.
- 2.2 The services of Speech & Language therapists and therapy assistants are contracted from NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde.
- 2.3 The Education and Lifelong Learning Committee agreed to a 2 year contract in May 2011. This report informs Committee of the detail relating to the newly proposed contract 2013/14

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Education and Communities Committee agrees to the purchase, via a contract for the period 2013 to 2014, of speech and language services for children and young people. These services will be contracted from NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde at the costs specified in this report.
- 3.2 It is recommended that the Committee agree to support the review of speech and language therapy services during 13/14 contracted by Education, with a view to future improvements.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Speech and Language Therapy requires to be made available to any school pupil assessed as having additional support needs requiring such assistance.
- 4.2 Collaborative working between Speech & Language Therapy staff and Education staff is essential to ensure the best possible outcome for the child or young person.
- 4.3 Therapists and technical instructors are employed by NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde and meet the requirements to practise set out by the Royal College of Speech & Language Therapists.
- 4.4 The service provides assessment and where appropriate, individual targets and programmes for children and young people. The service also provides consultation and advice to staff in educational establishments.

5.0 PROPOSALS

- 5.1 The Speech & Language Therapy staff and Education staff will continue to work collaboratively towards the development of “communication friendly” Educational establishments throughout Inverclyde.
- 5.2 Both health and education managers agree that the service requires a full review in order to refresh and modernise approaches to partnership working and service delivery.
- 5.3 The number of sessions currently contracted for Inverclyde is set at 1540 by therapists and an additional 396 sessions from instructors.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Finance Implications

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget year	Proposed spend this year	Virement from	Other comments
ASN General	Payment to NHS	2013/14	230,460	n/a	Funded from existing budget

6.2 Legal Implications

None

6.3 Equality Implications

Council’s Equalities Policy has been adhered to.

6.4 Repopulation Implications

None

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 Consultation has been carried out with various representatives from NHS and with Legal Services. Further consultation with users of the services and heads of establishments will be undertaken by Education Services in the course of the next year.

8.0 CONCLUSION

8.1 Speech and Language Therapy is an essential support for many children and young people in Inverclyde. This contract will ensure that children and young people's communication needs are accurately assessed, supported and evaluated.

8.2 The recommended review will evaluate the service fully and identify key areas for future improvement.

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil