

Physiotherapy Provision into Schools

We provide a Community Paediatric Physiotherapy Service, which is based both on best practice and evidence for children and young people. The Community Paediatric Physiotherapy Service is available to children/young people, aged 0-18 years of age (includes those up to 19 in full time education) and who are registered with a GP in the geographical boundaries of:

- Staffordshire Moorlands CCG
- Stoke on Trent CCG
- Stafford's and Surrounds CCG
- Seisdon Peninsula CCG
- Cannock Chase CCG

The Community Paediatric Physiotherapy Service will only accept referrals from medical and healthcare professionals which include but are not exclusive to:

- GPS/Consultants
- Health Visitors
- Children's Community and School Nurses
- Other Allied Healthcare Professionals
- Acute and Community Paediatric Services

What happens when a referral is made?

The referral will be placed on a waiting list. When the appropriate therapist is able to see the child, an appointment will be made to attend a clinic or the Therapist will arrange to visit the school.

At this appointment the physiotherapist will:

- Carry out an assessment
- Write a report, which is given to the parents/carers, school (with parental Consent) and any other relevant professional involved
- Give advice, which is based on the report
- When required, a physiotherapy programme will be written.

How does the Physiotherapist work with the school?

If required they will:

- Carry out training for teaching assistants to carry out the programme
- Liaise with teachers/parents/carers, giving programmes, training and advice.
- To provide equipment which allows the child to be mobile e.g. walking frames, wheelchairs
- Give advice on postural management.

The Children/young people requiring physiotherapy will be appointed to the Community Paediatric Physiotherapy Service that is closest to the child/young person's home address.

The Community Paediatric Physiotherapy Service provides assessment advice and physiotherapy management of any childhood conditions where serious or long term which threatens physical development and therefore, may affect the child/young person's physical potential.

Following an assessment, if required an individual intervention plan is developed, the plan will involve the child/young person, family/carers, and multi-agency partners where necessary.

Initially Therapists will teach parents/carers, educational providers about the child/young person's condition and support them to provide the necessary care. As the child and young person grows older the Therapist will encourage them to manage their condition whilst providing a more advisory model of care. We engage with the annual review process by providing written feedback on progress. We will also contribute to EHCP's, CAF, SEND, Safeguarding, Team around the Child and Child Protection Meeting.

An episodic approach of input is often required which is goal-orientated and focused on times of change in the Child/young person's life including, but not exclusive to surgery, growth and transition between educational settings.

The Child/young person is seen at school, home, clinics and where appropriate the Community Paediatric Physiotherapy Service will attend the Consultant and Paediatrician lead appointments.

The Community Paediatric Physiotherapy Service will, evaluate the achievement of agreed functional outcome measures for each Child/ young person, we use outcome measures to evaluate data to help drive continuous service improvement, as a service we participate in national and local evaluation research projects along with seeking patient/user and parent/carer feedback.

The Community Paediatric Physiotherapy Service will assist in the facilitating the transition from Paediatric Services to Adult Services, making use of any national and local tools.

When is a child discharged?

The child will be discharged from Physiotherapy according to the discharge criteria for the service. This includes:

- No further intervention is clinically indicated
- They have been on review for 1 year and maintained their level of ability
- It has not been possible to carry out the programme set by the Therapist
- The child or parents no longer wish to receive physiotherapy.

Discharge procedures will be carried out in line with educational policies regarding annual reviews.

As part of the discharge planning process consideration is given to the children and young person to ensure that they have a 'Safety net' of information available, so that should the Child and Young person develop a health related problem, they know what action to take and when, where and how to access the appropriate service. This includes how to access the relevant physiotherapy services if needed. All specific information regarding a possible re-referral to physiotherapy is given to the family as part of the discharge summary.