

18th March 2020

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

INFORMATION FROM THE SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY SERVICE

Dear Parents / Guardians

As you will be aware many NHS services are currently disrupted due to the Coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak.

Many of our appointments and therapy sessions take place on school based premises. We have made the decision to not see children and young people in Special Educational Needs Schools following advice from the Department of Health who are advising those who are at increased risk of severe illness from coronavirus (COVID-19) to be particularly stringent in following social distancing measures and this includes patients with a learning disability.

Please be reassured, if your child was receiving a block of therapy that is no longer able to go ahead, the member of our team who was working with your child will be in touch with you to discuss how you can support their targets at this time.

If your child was due to have a review in the next few months, we may telephone you to discuss their progress instead. If you have had any changes to your contact details please let the department know either on the above telephone number or the email below.

We may offer home visits where possible and in accordance with stringent guidelines to best protect our most vulnerable children. If parents would prefer us not visit please let us know.

If you have any concerns or questions about your child's speech and language therapy, or you would like some resources sent electronically to support your child please get in touch with us via STCCG.speechtherapy@nhs.net. Please include your child's name and date of birth so we can access their patient records.

(Please note that whilst NHS emails are secure we cannot guarantee a secure link when forwarding information to private email accounts – We will not be in a position

to send specific clinical information about your child in this manner but would willingly send anonymous resources and hand-outs).

You can also find general information and advice on our Facebook Page – South Tees NHS Children and Young People’s SALT Service.

Many Thanks for your patience and understanding at this time.

Kate Pepperrell
Specialist Speech and Language Therapist

and

Alison Smithies
South Tees NHS Speech and Language Therapy Service Manager on behalf of the
The Speech and Language Therapy Team