

Reference: FOI.ICB-2526/178

Subject: Sensory Occupational Therapy Service

I can confirm that the ICB does hold the information requested; please see responses below:

QUESTION	RESPONSE
<p>1. Do you commission a specific sensory occupation therapy service for children and young people?</p> <p>If yes, if this jointly with local authority partners?</p> <p>If yes which local authority partners?</p>	<p>Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG) ICB commissions Occupational Therapy for children and young people through its Children's Community Health Partnership contract, held by Sirona care and health. The service includes an Occupational Therapy Sensory helpline: https://sirona-cic.org.uk/children-services/services/occupational-therapy/</p> <p>This a co-commissioned contract with Bristol City Council and South Gloucestershire Council.</p>
<p>2. Do you have a service specification for sensory occupation therapy service for children and young people that you can share?</p>	<p>Yes, please find enclosed.</p>
<p>3. If you don't commission specific sensory occupation therapy services for children and young people, do the other service that you commission provide sensory assessment and support for children? If so which services.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

The information provided in this response is accurate as of 15 September 2025 and has been approved for release by David Jarrett, Chief Delivery Officer for NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire ICB.

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This specification must be read along with the overarching specification which applies to all services

1. Population Needs

1.1 National / local context and evidence base

Bristol and South Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) recognise that Community children's therapy services play a fundamental role in improving outcomes for all children, young people and families.

From 2017, our community children's physiotherapy and occupational therapy services will operate within a 'whole systems approach', delivered across the range of universal, targeted and specialist tiers.

The therapy services will provide a transparent and consistent offer to all children, young people and families. This offer will be comprised of assessment, management planning, training for parents and education staff, direct therapy provision where required and outcomes evaluation.

Bristol and South Gloucestershire's community children's therapy services will be required to deliver care that is evidence based and clinically safe, effective and efficient, and consistent with national and local policy, clinical guidelines and NHS Standards.

The Provider(s) will be required to ensure the service adheres to Bristol and South Gloucestershire CCGs' principles for children's community services, which are outlined in the overarching specification.

1.2 Policy Context and Legal Compliance

The Provider(s) must comply with all relevant policy and legal compliance, including but not limited to:

- Human Rights Act 1988
- Equality Act 2010
- Health Acts 1999 and 2006
- Health Bill 2009
- Health and Social Care Act 2012
- Care Standards Act 2000
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Vetting and Barring Scheme
- CQC Compliance

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- CQC Safeguarding Standards
- Public and Patient Involvement requirements
- Children Acts 1989 and 2004
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (March 2015)
- Aiming High for Disabled Children (2007)
- Healthy Lives, Brighter Futures (2009)
- NHS at Home: Community Children's Nursing Services (2011)

The Provider(s) must be familiar with and adhere to the principles and processes contained within:

- The National Framework for NHS Children's Continuing Care
- Statutory guidance on making arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children under section 11 of the Children Act (2004)
- National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services (October 2004)
- Safeguarding Children and Young People: Roles and Competencies for Health Care Staff 2014
- Information Sharing: Guidance for Practitioners and Managers
- NHS Employment Check Standards
- NHS Equality Delivery Scheme (EDS) – the Provider(s) should implement the EDS and aim to be performing at no lower than amber in the first year
- NHS Commissioning Outcomes Framework
- Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategies – Bristol and South Gloucestershire
- Children and Young People Plan/Partnership Strategies/Anti-Poverty Strategies – Bristol and South Gloucestershire
- South West Safeguarding and Child Protection Procedures 2013

2. Outcomes

2.1 NHS Outcomes Framework Domains & Indicators

Domain 1	Preventing people from dying prematurely	✓
Domain 2	Enhancing quality of life for people with long-term conditions	✓

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Domain 3	Helping people to recover from episodes of ill-health or following injury	✓
Domain 4	Ensuring people have a positive experience of care	✓
Domain 5	Treating and caring for people in safe environment and protecting them from avoidable harm	✓

2.2 Local defined outcomes

In addition to the outcomes in the overarching specification, the C=community children's therapy services will be expected to deliver care that focusses upon the improvements it can make to children, young people and families in terms of clinical effectiveness, enhanced emotional and social benefits and educational achievement:

- Children and young people are defined by their individual profile of strengths and needs.
- Children and young people's therapeutic needs are identified at an early developmental stage.
- Parents are supported with appropriate information and skills to understand and effectively manage their children and young people's therapeutic needs.
- Parents, children and young people experience therapeutic services that promote independence, quality of life and educational achievement.
- Children and young people achieve their personalised, individual goals and functional outcomes.
- Health and education staff are supported with appropriate information and skills to identify developmental or rehabilitative needs requiring therapeutic support.
- Health and education staff are supported with appropriate information and skills to confidently and competently deliver universal and targeted therapeutic interventions and some elements of specialist programmes.

3. Scope

3.1 Aims and objectives of service

The physiotherapy and occupational therapy services will provide children, young person and family-centred services that recognise and build upon strengths and focus upon improving outcomes.

Physiotherapy and occupational therapy services will be provided to

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children and young people with the following needs:

- Global Developmental Delay
- Developmental Co-ordination Disorder/Dyspraxia
- Down's Syndrome
- Hypotonia
- Complex Needs and Disabilities
- Respiratory Needs
- Neurological Conditions
- Neuromuscular Conditions
- Orthopaedic Conditions
- Gait Disorders
- Torticollis
- Social communication and interaction needs, including Autism and Autistic Spectrum Conditions
- Non-Complex Augmentative and Alternative Communication Needs
- Sensory processing needs

The services will demonstrate an equitable spread of resources based on children and young people's needs and will vary the deployment of resource according to identified patterns of demand across each CCG area.

The services will provide an appropriate and proportionate therapeutic offer across the continuum of universal, targeted and specialist need.

The services will ensure waiting times for assessment and delivery of therapy adhere to national guidance and best practice.

The services will provide functional and needs-led assessment for the identification of children and young people's therapeutic needs.

The services will provide timely and high quality assessment and management plans for children and young people eligible for Education Health Plans.

The services will deliver assessments and interventions in the most appropriate and accessible functional setting for the child, young person and their family (this is likely to be an educational / Early Years settings or home).

The services will deliver management plans and interventions that have a functional impact and that are outcome focused, with individual

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outcome measures for each child

The services will provide interventions that are evidence based.

The services will provide training, skills sharing and coaching for other children's and young people's services and, in particular; Children's Centres and Early Years settings, schools staff, health visitors and school health nurses.

The services will provide training, skill sharing and coaching for parents and carers.

The services will ensure robust and timely access to appropriate community equipment to enable sustained home and school support, including Lycra garments.

The services must respond flexibly and rapidly to schools seeking to commission an enhanced level of community therapies from their own resources.

3.2 Service model

Community children's therapy services will implement an effective integrated working model which maximises the contribution of therapists within universal, targeted and specialist service areas.

Parents are key partners to the success of delivering effective community children's therapy services. Service models will support them to meet some therapeutic need themselves through training, skill sharing and coaching.

Schools and Early Years setting are key partners to the success of delivering effective community children's therapy services. Service models will support them to meet some therapeutic need themselves through training, skill sharing and coaching.

A named link OT and Physiotherapist is provided to every school and Children's Centre within each CCG area.

The Services will usually operate from 9.00am to 5.00pm. However, evening and weekend access should be made available if it becomes a priority in a CCG area. Schools and Children's Centres may negotiate with the Provider(s) for therapists to adjust hours to be available in school before 9am.

The total resource should be used flexibly and transparently. The service will be required to work with the commissioners to agree how resources are prioritised and deployed across schools and settings equitably.

Access and Information

The community children's therapy services will:

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- Provide clear information for the Local Offer to support parents and carers in accessing services.
- Ensure that access to the service is simple, equitable and rapid.
- Provide parents with appropriate information and resources to understand and manage their children's therapeutic needs.
- Provide health and education staff with appropriate information and resources to understand and manage children's therapeutic needs.
- Ensure that environments where children spend time (both educational and home) are adaptive and responsive to their therapeutic needs.

Assessment

The community children's therapy services will:

- Provide functional, needs-led assessments for the identification of children and young people's therapeutic needs.
- Provide clear feedback to parents, the referrer and the child or young person's educational setting. This should include the assessment outcome, the functional goals agreed, the recommended intervention, management advice and guidance and information about training available.
- Deliver assessments in the most appropriate and accessible functional context for the child, young person and parents.

Intervention

The community children's therapy services will:

- Deliver interventions that have a functional impact and that are outcome focussed, with outcome measures agreed for each child.
- Deliver interventions that are evidence based.
- Deliver interventions that are flexible and accessible and build upon the strengths of the child.
- Provide training for parents to enable them to contribute to the effective delivery of interventions.
- Provide training for education staff to enable them to contribute to the effective delivery of interventions.

Evaluation

The community children's therapy services will:

- Evaluate the achievement of agreed functional outcome measures

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for each child.

- Use outcome measures evaluation data to drive continuous service improvement.
- Participate in national and local evaluation and research.

3.3 Referrals

Referrals to the community children's therapy services can be made by:

- Children and young people
- Parents and carers
- GPs
- Health Visitors
- School Health Nurses
- Acute and community paediatric health services
- Schools and Early Years settings
- Children's Social Care and Preventative Services
- Police

Referrals can be made either in writing or by telephone.

The community children's therapy services will work with Bristol and South Gloucestershire Local Authorities to develop systems and protocols for receive referrals through their Single Points of Entry.

The community children's therapy services will make onward referrals to other professionals as appropriate.

3.4 Response times and prioritisation

The service will meet the following response times:

- Referral to treatment – 18 weeks or national / locally defined standard.
- Assessment for SEN Education, Health and Care Plan – within 4 weeks of referral.

3.5 Discharge and transition

See overarching specification.

3.6 Acceptance and exclusion criteria and thresholds

- All children and young people, from age 0 to their eighteenth

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birthday, who are registered with a Bristol or South Gloucestershire GP.

- For children in specified categories (for example; those in special schools) care will be provided until their nineteenth birthday.

3.7 Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy Workforce

In addition to the Workforce requirements in the overarching specification.

- Community children's therapy services should be overseen by a qualified children's therapists holding the appropriate clinical qualification and registration with the appropriate professional body.
- Team members may include assistant practitioners working under the supervision and guidance of a qualified therapist.

3.8 Safeguarding

Safeguarding is covered in the overarching specification.

3.9 Equality and Diversity

In addition to the Equality and Diversity section in the overarching specification.

- Equality Impact Assessment must be undertaken and documented as part of any service review process or if any change is made to the provision of the service which could impact on those in receipt of the service.
- All staff employed by community children's therapy services will recognise and respect the religious, cultural and social backgrounds of children, young people and parents, in accordance with legislation and local and national good practice.
- The community children's therapy services will ensure that they have access to appropriate translation services and resources to enable equity of access and understanding.

3.10 Interdependence with other services / providers

In addition to the interdependences section in the overarching specification, seamless provision is essential to meeting the needs of children, young people and families.

The community children's therapy services will therefore deliver an effective, integrated working model which maximises the contribution of therapists within the universal, targeted and specialist service areas

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and ensuring efficient use of resources.

The community children's therapy services will have a collaborative working relationship with the Local Authority 0 - 25 Special Educational Needs and Disability Services, contributing to the integrated assessment and management of children and young people with Education, Health and Care Plans and those eligible for Children's Continuing Care.

4. Applicable Service Standards

4.1 Applicable national standards (e.g. NICE)

4.2 Applicable standards set out in Guidance and/or issued by a competent body (e.g. Royal Colleges)

4.3 Applicable local standards

5. Applicable quality requirements and CQUIN goals

5.1 Applicable Quality Requirements (See Schedule 4 Parts [A-D])

5.2 Applicable CQUIN goals (See Schedule 4 Part [E])