

Children's speech and language therapy

Supporting young people to make choices about their care



Preparing for adulthood

What is this about?



The children's speech and language therapy service see children and young people up to 18 years of age. We like to help young people make decisions about their care as they get older. For example, we might ask them what they want to work on in therapy and who can help them.

We will share information with you about how we help young people when they reach Year 9 at school (aged 13 or 14). This is because we need to involve young people in decisions about their care as they approach adulthood.

Supporting young people to prepare for adulthood

It is important for young people to:

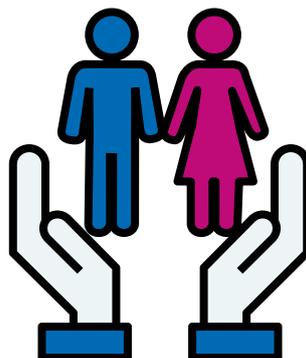
- Be as independent as possible
- Make decisions about their life
- Be healthy and live well
- Have access to education and employment

The speech and language therapist will suggest specific strategies to help young people.

The therapist will recommend ways the young person, people, families and settings can offer support.

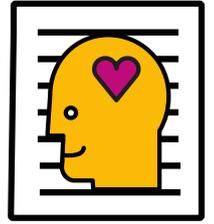
They may suggest:

- Attending training
- How other people can make adjustments to their communication to support the young person
- Strategies the young person can use to help themselves
- Information about support groups available
- Providing Communication and Health Passports to share supportive information
- Suggesting changes to the environment
- Registering as an employer or setting for Communication Access UK training to become 'communication accessible' <https://communication-access.co.uk/register/>



The Mental Capacity Act

We must follow the Mental Capacity Act (2005) when young people are 16. We must 'have regard' for this Act when supporting young people in our service.



The Mental Capacity Act 2005 says we must:

1. Assume young people can make their own decisions and choices – unless someone can show that they cannot do this
2. Give as much help as possible to support young people make their own decisions and choices
3. We cannot say the young person is unable to make a decision just because their decision is unwise or not what we advise
4. If it is shown that young people cannot make a decision themselves, we must work with families
5. Work in a way that is 'least restrictive' for the young person if we make a decision for them

You can find more accessible information about the Mental Capacity Act here:

<https://www.mencap.org.uk/advice-and-support/mental-capacity-act>

The full Mental Capacity Act can be found here:

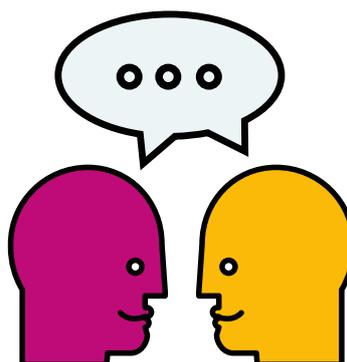
http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2005/9/pdfs/ukpga_20050009_en.pdf

Changes to speech and language therapy for young people 16 years and over

Therapists have to decide if a young person is able to make their own decisions and choices about therapy. If young people have capacity:

- They have to give consent for us to share information with parents and other people
- We can only talk to parents and share information if the young person gives permission
- We can only provide therapy and intervention with their consent

Young people can have episodes of care with children's speech and language therapy until their 18th birthday. They will then be discharged. If they need help after 18 we can refer to adult services with consent from the young person. If a young person does not have the capacity to make this decision, we will speak to the parent or guardian.



Safeguarding

We have a duty of care to safeguard young people that we see. If we think a young person is at risk of harm we may need to share information with other professionals and/or parents. We may need to do this even if the young person has asked us not to do so.

We will always talk to the young person if we need to do this.

When young people reach their 18th birthday

If young people need more help for their communication or eating, drinking and swallowing after 18 we can help to refer to adult services. We will:



- Talk to the young person about a referral to adult services.
- Complete a referral to adult speech and language therapy services.
- Talk to the young person about a joint visit
- Write a report when we discharge the young person from our service.

Adult services for speech and language therapy

There are 2 NHS speech and language therapy services for adults in Barnsley. These are:

- Speech and language therapy service for adults with learning disabilities
Telephone: 01226 645237
Young people can be referred from 17½ if criteria is met.
www.southwestyorkshire.nhs.uk/services/barnsley-adult-learning-disability-health-service/
- Adult speech and language therapy service
Telephone: 01226 644296

Young people have to meet the criteria to be referred to these services.

Some young people may not need a referral to adult speech and language therapy when they turn 18. Some young people might not want to be referred straight away.

Young people can:

- Contact the service they want a referral to at a later date
- Give consent for another person to do a referral for them

Other services available

There are other services available in Barnsley for adults which are helpful to know about. These are:

- Barnsley assistive technology team (Barnsley Hospital) – regional service for people who need assessment for communication devices:
www.barnsleyhospital.nhs.uk/assistive-technology/
- Adults with autism service:
www.southwestyorkshire.nhs.uk/services/autism/
- Adult assessment for dyslexia:
www.southwestyorkshire.nhs.uk/services/adult-diagnostic-assessments-for-dyslexia/