



Pupil and School Support form part of Access to Education in Birmingham. We are a team of people working in partnership with the child or young person, the family, schools and settings to remove barriers to pupils' learning and to raise attainment. A member of our team is allocated to all mainstream settings within the city.

Throughout this short presentation Pupil and School Support will be referred to as **PSS** and our SaLT partners the Locality "SEND Speech and Language Therapy Service" Team referred to as **Locality SaLT**. Speech, Language and Communication Needs will be abbreviated to **SLCN**.



Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) is referred to as "The most common childhood disability you've never heard of." because despite 7.6% of the population having it (that's 2 pupils in every class of 30) many people have never even heard of it. We want to support you as SENCOs to be a part of changing that. We know that the right support can make a difference to pupils with DLD.

This year's **DLD raising awareness day** is on Friday 15th October. At PSS we want to support you in your strategic role and how you can improve outcomes for the pupils in your setting with DLD (those diagnosed and those not yet identified). So today, on 15th October 2021, DLD raising awareness day, we have released this explanation of ways in which your PSS teacher can support you. **We can help strengthen your whole school approach to making a difference for these children and young people.** Which will ensure your whole school population have appropriate language and communication opportunities.

Pupil and School Support

Partners on the pathway to a positive future for children and young people

Many children with SLCN will make good progress and have their needs met with the support that can be offered at universal level.

With the **right support** at a “universal” whole class level many children with SLCN will make progress, without the need for more specialist intervention.



And for those pupils who do need additional “targeted” and/or “specialist” support to meet their SLCN, they still need the High Quality “universal” support to be in place. Class and subject teachers who are in contact with pupils day-in day-out are hugely important to getting the provision right for pupils with SLCN.

Giving teachers and teaching assistants the right support empowers them with the knowledge and confidence to make a difference to pupils with SLCN every day.

Working with our partners in the Locality SaLT Team, at the universal level **PSS can provide:**

- School workforce development opportunities
- Guidance in creating communication friendly environments
- Guidance in whole class and school interventions
- Appropriate information for families
 - including the Locality SaLT support available for parents and carers via citywide Family Forums and webinars, offering advice and strategies to try at home

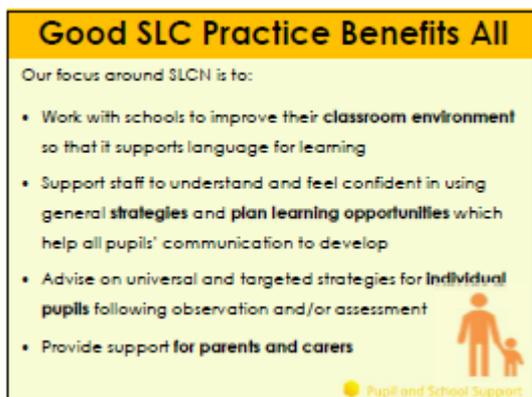


Embedding Practice

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Together, we work towards embedding strong communication friendly practice across Birmingham settings. Our support is personalised to each setting, to respond to the needs of each setting and their population. We are passionate about supporting you so that high quality provision for SLCN is embedded across your school.



At the universal level our support extends to all children and young people, not just those with additional needs. **Good SLCN practice benefits all.**

Our focus around SLCN is to:

- Work with schools to improve their classroom environment so that they support language for learning
- We support staff to understand and feel

confident in using general strategies and providing learning opportunities which help all pupils' communication to develop. Our staff development opportunities work to ensure all professionals working with children have a 'universal' knowledge about SLCN.

- We advise on universal and targeted strategies for individual pupils following observation and/or assessment. Our recommendations have been developed with consultation with Locality SALT. Following initial guidance our recommendations can be delivered independently by the school team to be self-sustaining within schools.

PSS draw from a range of SLCN assessments. They are chosen depending on the individual, their circumstances and what aspect or aspects of language or communication are being assessed.

We work with schools to establish interventions at a targeted level and to maintain them as a school-based intervention.

Not all pupils with SLCN that PSS work with will need a referral to a speech therapist. However, if they do, then the prior involvement of PSS can be referenced in any school referral. This gives the speech therapist additional evidence of good universal and targeted support in place and the impact for the pupil to date.

- PSS and Locality SALT provide information for you to use and to share with parents and carers from a comprehensive range of resources, to help them support their child and provide them with a chance to discuss questions or concerns with us about their child's speech, language and communication development.

Good universal provision starts with ensuring the environment enables all learners to develop their social, emotional and learning potential. A **communication friendly environment** should make communication as easy, effective and enjoyable as possible. It should provide opportunities for everyone to talk, listen, understand and take part.

PSS together with SEND SaLT can provide support and tools to help staff to:

- understand the ways in which pupils develop their receptive and expressive language skills;
- and monitor classroom interactions and respond with reasonable adjustments to support the development of oracy skills.

Our support can extend to all who provide support to pupils ensuring consistency of approach across the whole setting/school to avoid confusion for the pupil when outside of their classroom.

Communication Friendly Environments

Pupil and School Support together with Locality SaLT can provide support and tools to help staff to:

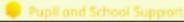
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Our support can extend to all who provide support to pupils, ensuring consistency of approach across the whole setting to avoid confusion for the pupil.



Our SLCN Training Aims

- Consideration of the difficulties that pupils with SLCN experience and the impact on learning.
- Supporting the development of SLC skills on a day-to-day basis in your setting.
- Identification of pupils who might be struggling to develop these important skills and identify when further support is needed.
- Providing practical, universal strategies that can be used to support pupils.
- Supporting schools in regularly monitoring pupils' progress in SLC against language milestones.



PSS and our Locality SALT partners both provide **training opportunities** to help the school team to learn about children and young people's speech, language and communication development.

Our training aims include:

- Consideration of the difficulties that pupils with SLCN experience and the impact on learning.
- How you can support the development of SLC skills on a day-to-day basis in your setting,
- How to spot pupils might be struggling to develop these important skills and when further support is needed.
- Some practical, universal strategies that can be used to support pupils.
- And supporting schools in regularly monitoring pupils' progress in SLC against language milestones.

With these aims in mind, PSS and SEND SaLT individually or in joint delivery can provide training support for your team following consultation to ensure this is bespoke to your school needs. As a further part of our training offer and joint working with SEND SaLT, we can work with your setting around developing **Communication Friendly Classrooms**. This training will include an audit focus around developing the environment, ensuring they are communication friendly and have appropriate enhancements and adaptations.

Ideally by way of follow-up to your school's development of Communication Friendly Classrooms, PSS can also provide **Tier 2 Vocabulary training** to further enhance your school's language provision. This CPD will support staff in improving pupils' vocabulary – sharing research and resources in the implementation of Tier 2 vocabulary. If this or any of these aspects of training could be a focus in which you would like to invest time, please speak to your PSS teacher.



It is essential that SLCN needs are identified as quickly as possible so that early action can be taken to meet those needs. It is easy to miss some types of SLCN, even for the most experienced and skilled teachers. Over time, unmet SLCN can lead to Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs. Particularly as the demands

of the school curriculum increase and the complexity of peer relationships increase.

PSS and your Locality SaLT can also support you to establish or develop your use of screening tools that help to accurately identify SLCN. **Effective screening** can also help identify those children who need setting-based monitoring and support and those who need referral to a Speech & Language Therapist.

PSS have created a free short course, which explains more about why screening is important. It gives you some things to consider whether you are just starting to think about screening or if you do screen but want to reflect on best practice. The course is available on the Access to

Education website and includes a free poster that can be used to support discussions with your senior leadership team and as an aide memoir for your wall.

Your PSS teacher and Locality SaLT can also support you, ask them about screening.

<https://accesstoeducation.birmingham.gov.uk/courses/screening-for-slcn/>



What people say about how PSS can support SLCN



SENCo at a school without SaLT

“Having been a SENDCO for a number of years I have found the high-quality support provided by PSS to be invaluable. They not only focus on 'Cognition and Learning' but also offer a wealth of knowledge on SLCN support which has been especially helpful since we were no longer able to employ a speech therapy service.”

SENCo at a school with SaLT

“What PSS have done is highlight where we thought there were general literacy difficulties, through the PSS diagnostic tests, they were able to unpick where there were actually language difficulties that were not apparent to us.

PSS raise awareness among staff about how to meet SLCN. They also help us to better utilise our Speech Therapist resource.”

Speech Therapist working in Birmingham Schools

“Working alongside the Pupil and School Support team enables us to analyse the wider and more complete picture of a child’s needs within the school setting

PSS support helps us to write targets that are functional and relevant for each individual child. This holistic approach is so important to enable a child to work towards realistic goals which in turn builds confidence, develop skills and enables a child to achieve and progress to the best of their abilities.”

Locality SaLT

“PSS and SEND SALT work together to support SENCos to put universal and targeted provision in place for pupils with SLCN and DLD. We work together as a team through the MAP meetings and training offered to settings.”

“PSS were able to carry out an assessment of a child’s SLCN and then liaise with the SEND SALT regarding targeted support.”



Speech Therapist working in Birmingham Schools

“Joint working between PSS and SALT enables robust and child centred assessment of need which, in term, enables tailored provision for the child.”

Useful Contacts & Links

You may find it useful to make a note of the Birmingham SaLT advice line and add these websites to your 'favourites'.

Birmingham Local Offer

www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk



Free short course about screening for SLCN

<https://accesstoeducation.birmingham.gov.uk/courses/screening-for-slcn/>

Speech and Language Therapy

www.bhamcommunity.nhs.uk/childrens-SLT



Advice line: 0121 466 6231

"**ican**" website a great source of information and resources including free webinar recordings and guidance for supporting pupils with

Developmental Language Disorder (DLD)

<https://ican.org.uk/>



RADLD "Raising awareness of Developmental

Language Disorder" website has lots of useful

free resources and information <https://radld.org>



We hope you have found this presentation useful in revisiting how you can engage PSS in your graduated approach to SLCN.

Please speak to your PSS teacher if you would like to discuss how they can support you to further develop your SLCN provision at a strategic and/or a casework level.