DGS 227
3 April 2019

Dear

Freedom of Information Request – DGS 227

Thank you for your recent request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which was received by NHS Dartford Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) on 27 March 2019, the information requested is below:

Does your CCG commission a specialist service for children who stammer? This includes information about the NHS Trust / Local Authority commissioned to provide the Speech & Language Therapy service and whether there are specialist services available specifically to children who stammer, e.g. dysfluency pathways and/or specialist Speech & Language Therapists.

What age range does the service cover?

Children and young people aged 0 – 19 years (preschool, primary and secondary school) who are

Does the service have any other specified exclusion criteria?

- Children under 1 year and 11 months presenting with a language delay will not be accepted into the service unless there are other concerns regarding the child’s development and/or communication or where 3 or more risk factors are present.

- Children/young people with mild/moderate speech difficulties, e.g. a lisp.

- Children/young people with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) where their language development/profile is in line with this diagnosis (e.g. associated semantic and/or social communication difficulties).

- Children/young people who have English as an additional language (EAL) where there are no concerns regarding the development of their home language
In Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley children/young people 11 – 19 years with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN), including autism or social communication difficulties (unless attending a specialist provision where KCHT is commissioned by education to provide SLT input)

Children/young people who are registered with a GP within DGS CCG areas but attend a school outside of those areas and who require a school based SLT service.

Children and young people attending a Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) or independent educational placement not registered with a DGS local GP practice.

Referrals from the Local Authority for SEN or tribunal processes are not accepted unless children meet the referral criteria. If children are not accepted the referring agent and family are signposted to the agreed support packages in place, e.g. school based support programmes and/or to educational support services.

What geographical population does this cover?

The Dartford Gravesham and Swanley CCG locality.

Number of referrals made to the service for children suspected of presenting with a stammer over the last year (January 2018 - January 2019)

NHS Dartford Gravesham and Swanley CCG is unable to provide the exact figures as we do not hold that level of data. However, across the Kent area, 153 children were seen in total.

Number of children seen as part of the dysfluency service in the last year (January 2018 - January 2019)

NHS Dartford Gravesham and Swanley CCG is unable to provide the exact figures as we do not hold that level of data. However, across the Kent area, 179 children were seen in total.

We hope that this has dealt with your request for information however, should you remain dissatisfied, you have the right to request that we conduct an internal review of your request. If you would like us to conduct such a review please contact us within two months of this letter using the contact details below:

E-mail: swccg.northkent.foi@nhs.net  
Post: FOI, NHS Swale Clinical Commissioning Group, Bramblefield Clinic, Grovehurst Road, Kemsley Sittingbourne Kent ME10 2ST

Your request for an internal review will then be processed in accordance with our Freedom of Information Policy, a copy of which can be found on our website:
If you are still dissatisfied following the internal review, you have the right under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to appeal against the decision by contacting the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner provides full and detailed guidance on the Freedom of Information Act, and on when and how to complain.

Please find below the link to their website page and their helpline number.
https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/official-information/
Helpline number: 0303 123 1113

In line with the Information Commissioner’s directive on the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 your request will form part of our disclosure log. An anonymised version of our response will therefore be posted on our website.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.