

**NORTH TYNESIDE SENSORY SERVICE**

**AT**

**BEACON HILL**

**SERVICE OFFER**

* Support for children and young people with a visual and/or hearing loss from birth or diagnosis to adulthood
* Support and advice available from diagnosis onward based on individual need.
* Direct one to one specialist teaching
* Provision of specialist learning support
* Regular monitoring and evaluation of functional hearing
* Specialist training and support for schools and settings
* Advice and application of specialist equipment
* Environmental advice

**Support**

* The Service uses the nationally agreed Eligibility Framework to allocate support levels for children and families
* Advice is presented without bias and provided with sensitivity and awareness of the needs of individual families
* The Eligibility Framework ensures support and resources are accessed fairly
* Full assessments are carried out by fully qualified:
* Teachers of the D/deaf
* Teachers of the Visually Impaired
* Teacher of multi-Sensory impairment

**Advice and Consultancy**

We provide personalised training based around the needs of individual children and young people for:

* Whole school staff
* Groups of staff
* School based Teaching Assistants
* School departments
* Individual class/subject Teachers
* Lunchtime supervisors / Site staff
* Peer training for hearing / sighted children and young people

**Working in partnership with other professionals**

We work in liaison with and seek advice from:-

* Schools
* Hospitals (Freeman/RVI/NECIP James Cook)
* Health visitors
* Educational Psychologists
* Speech and Language Therapists
* Physiotherapists
* Portage
* Social Services
* Voluntary Community Sectors – RNIB, NDCS, etc.
* FE Colleges
* Connexions

**Referrals**

We operate an open referral system. The vast majority of our referrals come via NHS after diagnosis. However, we also accept referrals from:-

* Parents/carers
* Schools
* Speech and Language Therapists/other professionals

Referral forms are available on the Service website, or a hard copy can be posted out to you.

**Please note**

Children/Young People can only be seen by the Service if we have written parental consent

**General Information**

* Service staff work the same length of day as our school colleagues
* As a team of specialist teachers we work in term time only.
* However, because we work with families and pre-school children, service staff can provide contact with babies, toddlers and families during the summer break.
* We fulfil the requirements of the NHSP (Newborn Hearing Screening Programme) and offer a year round response within 48 working hours to any new baby being diagnosed with a hearing loss. Staff working with visually impaired children respond within the same time scales.

**General Information**

* We work in all maintained schools, nurseries and pre school settings in North Tyneside as well as academies.
* The service has a Family Forum who meet bi-annually in order to gather parent / carer views around service delivery.
* The service organises ‘STARS’ social events to enable sensory impaired children and young people to engage with other similar children and young people.
* The VI Team offer soft play and sensory experiences for their young cohort which takes place at Beacon Hill School.
* Family Sign classes are held on a weekly basis by a qualified British Sign Language Tutor. These are delivered in association with the Adult Learning Alliance.
* The CHSWG (Children’s Hearing Services Working Group) group is a multi-professional body that meet 3 times per year.

**Accessibility**

* Specialist Service staff will always provide advice and guidance regarding accessibility for individual children and young people.

**NB** Accessibility advice includes Curriculum, Exams and Environmental advice. Further information for families and/or individuals with regard to PIPs/DLA/interpreters etc. is supported and signposted by Specialist Service staff.

**Technology**

* Individual aids such as glasses, hearing aids, etc. are provided by local hospital departments through the National Health Service.
* Pupils/young people who need additional technology such as CCTVs, radio aids, etc. have this specialist equipment provided by the individual school.
* At times of transfer there will be negotiation between nurseries, schools and other educational establishments regarding a financial agreement for the piece of specialist equipment.

**Quality Assurance**

* The annual outcomes for CYP (Children and Young People) with a sensory impairment are reported and evaluated via:
* The National Sensory Impairment Partnership
* Newborn Hearing Screening Programme Quality Standards
* The Consortium for research into Deaf Education
* The National Deaf children’s Society
* CYP, Parents/Carers and schools complete satisfaction surveys biannually
* All the above are evaluated and improvements acted upon where necessary

**Contributions**

Parents, Young People and Children with a visual and/or hearing loss contributed to North Tyneside’s Sensory Support Service Offer. Their views and suggestions will be sought on an annual basis.

**Details**

Our offices are based in Beacon Hill School

North Tyneside Local Authority fund the Sensory Service by delegation to the Head Teacher (Mrs J Terretta) at Beacon Hill School. Her address is:

Head Teacher

Beacon Hill School

Rising Sun Cottages

Wallsend

Tyne and Wear

NE28 9JW

Tel. No: 0191 6433000

Manager of the Service: Nick Cubley nick.cubley@northtyneside.gov.uk

North Tyneside Sensory Service at Beacon Hill

Rising Sun Cottages

Wallsend

NE28 9JW

Tel No: 0191 643 3030

The Service website can be found at:

[www.northtynesidesensoryservice.org.uk](http://www.northtynesidesensoryservice.org.uk)