

Children and Young People Speech and Language Therapy in Croydon Mainstream Schools

Better Days and Allen Speech and Language

Statutory Support – Students with EHCPs

Our statutory Speech and Language Therapy service provides, **Better Days** and **Allen SLT** specialist support for children and young people aged **4–25 years** attending educational settings within **Croydon** whose Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) specifies Speech and Language Therapy provision within **Section F**.

Referrals to the service are made by the Local Authority's EHCP Coordinators following the finalisation of an EHCP.

Each child is allocated a named Speech and Language Therapist who works collaboratively with families, schools and other professionals to deliver the provision outlined in their EHCP. **Support** is tailored to the individual needs of the child and may include:

- Specialist speech, language and communication assessments.
- Direct individual or group therapy.
- Indirect therapy through programmes delivered by education staff under therapist guidance.
- Annual Review assessments and reports to inform the statutory review process.
- Regular review of progress and adjustment of therapy programmes where appropriate.
- Advice, coaching and training for teachers, teaching assistants and parents to support communication across home and school environments.
- Liaison with education staff and the wider multidisciplinary team to ensure therapy recommendations are embedded within everyday learning.
- Outcome monitoring and clinical review to ensure provision remains effective and appropriate.

Our aim is **to work in partnership with schools and families** to enable children and young people to develop the communication skills they need to access education, participate fully in school life and achieve the outcomes identified within their EHCP.

Non-Statutory Support

Our non-statutory offer provides early intervention and support for children and young people with speech, language and communication needs who do not have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). The aim is to identify needs early, build the confidence and skills of school staff and families, and ensure children receive the right support at the right time.

Referral

Schools can refer children who are experiencing speech, language and communication difficulties through our non-statutory consultation process. Referrals are discussed with the school's SENCO to ensure the most appropriate support is identified.

Initial Consultation

A Speech and Language Therapist will meet with the SENCO online to discuss the child's communication needs and any concerns identified within the educational setting. During this consultation, the therapist will recommend the most appropriate level of support, which may include universal strategies, targeted interventions, staff training or further monitoring.

Training and Capacity Building

Where appropriate, we provide training and coaching for education staff and parents to increase their understanding of speech, language and communication needs. This enables those supporting the child every day to implement practical strategies that can be embedded within the classroom and home environment.

Review and Ongoing Support

The therapist will review progress through follow-up consultations with school staff. Together, they will evaluate the effectiveness of the strategies implemented, discuss the child's progress and agree any next steps. This may include continuing with current support, providing additional advice or, where appropriate, recommending a statutory assessment or referral for specialist intervention.

What the Non-Statutory Offer Includes

- Consultation with SENCOs and school staff.
- Advice on universal and targeted communication strategies.
- Staff and parent training.
- Support to develop communication-friendly learning environments.
- Monitoring and review of children's progress.
- Guidance on when further assessment or statutory support may be required.

This graduated approach helps schools meet the needs of children with speech, language and communication difficulties at the earliest opportunity, promotes inclusive practice and supports positive outcomes without the need for specialist intervention where this is not required.

Access to services

(referral process, contact details)

- **Statutory Speech and Language Therapy**

Children and young people aged 0–25 years with Speech and Language Therapy provision specified in Section F of an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) are referred to our service by the Croydon Local Authority EHCP Team following the finalisation of their EHCP. Once a referral is received, a named Speech and Language Therapist is allocated to coordinate and deliver the provision outlined within the EHCP in partnership with the child, their family and educational setting.

- **Non-Statutory Speech and Language Therapy**

Children and young people who do not have an EHCP but are experiencing speech, language and communication difficulties can access support through our non-statutory consultation pathway. Schools can refer pupils by contacting our team to arrange an initial consultation between the Speech and Language Therapist and the school's SENCO. Together, they will discuss the child's needs and determine the most appropriate support, which may include universal strategies, targeted intervention, staff training, monitoring or, where appropriate, consideration of a referral for statutory assessment.

- **Contact Details**

For referrals, advice or general enquiries, schools and professionals can contact the Allen Speech and Language or Better Days Croydon Teams:

Emails: croydon@allenspeechandlanguage.co.uk (for Croydon Schools based in the Central Cluster) and croydon@betterdays.uk (for Croydon schools based in the North and South Clusters)

What to expect

Statutory Speech and Language Therapy

- **Step 1 – Referral**
Following the finalisation of an EHCP with Speech and Language Therapy provision specified in Section F, the Local Authority will refer your child to our service.
- **Step 2 – Allocation**
A named Speech and Language Therapist will be allocated to your child and will make contact with the school to arrange the initial visit.
- **Step 3 – Initial Assessment**
The therapist will review your child's EHCP, existing reports and any relevant information. They will carry out an assessment or observation, where appropriate, and discuss your child's strengths and areas of need with school staff and parents/carers.
- **Step 4 – Therapy and Support**
The therapist will deliver the provision specified within the EHCP. This may include direct therapy with your child, indirect therapy delivered through school staff, classroom observations, advice, and communication programmes. Therapists also provide training and guidance for teachers, teaching assistants and parents to help support communication throughout the day.
- **Step 5 – Reviewing Progress**
Your child's progress will be reviewed regularly. The therapist will liaise with school staff and parents, adapt therapy where appropriate and contribute to Annual Reviews by providing assessment updates and written reports.

Non-Statutory Speech and Language Therapy

- **Step 1 – School Consultation**
The school's SENCO contacts our service to discuss concerns about a child's speech, language or communication.
- **Step 2 – Consultation Meeting**
A Speech and Language Therapist meets with the SENCO to understand the child's needs and recommend the most appropriate support.
- **Step 3 – Support and Training**
The therapist may provide advice, classroom strategies, targeted intervention plans, or training for school staff and parents to help develop the child's communication skills.
- **Step 4 – Review**
The therapist will review progress with the school, evaluate how well the recommended strategies are working and agree next steps. If additional support is needed, further intervention or a recommendation for statutory assessment may be discussed.

Working in Partnership

Throughout both pathways, we believe that children make the best progress when families, schools and therapists work together. We encourage regular communication and shared goal setting so that speech, language and communication skills are supported consistently across home and school environments.

Other useful SLT resources and services in Croydon

- Information about other Children's SLT services outside education may be found here: [A to Z of services | Croydon Health Services NHS Trust](#)
- Information about Chatterbox Early Years support sessions may be found here: [Children, young people and families support directory | Croydon Council](#)
- Information about the Local Education Authority and schools may be found here: [Schools and education | Croydon Council](#)
- Information for parents and carers about speech, language and communication for children may be found here: <https://speechandlanguage.org.uk/help-for-families/>
- Information about children who stammer may be found here: <https://michaelpalincentreforstammering.org/about-stammering/>
- Information about The South Thames Cleft Palate Service may be found here: [Cleft services | Evelina London](#)