

## Speech and Language Therapy Services for Children and Young People in Slough

October 2018

Speech and language therapy can help children learn to communicate effectively with others and learn to solve problems and make decisions independently, and is an essential part of a fulfilling educational experience.

Those children who are able to overcome communication issues feel a great sense of pride and confidence. Often though children with speech and language and communication difficulties maybe withdrawn socially, but with the help of therapy and improved confidence, they can enjoy a fully active social life.

Slough Borough Council, in partnership with Bracknell Forest Council, invited providers to tender for the provision of Speech and Language Therapy (SaLT) Services in Slough and Bracknell Forest.

Through a fair and transparent competitive tendering process, **Berkshire Healthcare (NHS) Foundation Trust (BHFT)** successfully bid to provide these services and have been awarded the contract.

BHFT will provide Speech and Language Therapy services to school age children, and up to 25 years old with SEND, from **1<sup>st</sup> November 2018**, for an initial period of 3 years with an option to extend for a further 2 years. BHFT is separately commissioned by East Berkshire CCG to provide SaLT for under 5s. SBC will therefore work with the CCG and BHFT to ensure a smooth transition to this new commissioned service. Initially

- BHFT will be working with Slough Borough Council to gain an understanding of the children who have speech and language therapy needs as part of their EHCP and will then work with schools on how to best support these children.
- BHFT will provide statutory assessments for children and young people referred for specialist support. This will include a written report detailing the therapist's findings and recommendations/strategies for how to support the child or young person in the community.
- BHFT will be organising several communication events in order to share with key stakeholders how they see speech and language therapy services in Slough developing in both the short and long term.



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