



12. Health

12.1. The role of DCO

The Designated Clinical Officer role is a key element in supporting the health service in its implementation of the Children and Families Act.

We are a team of 3 health professionals working together across the whole of Lancashire, including Blackpool and Blackburn with Darwen.

We listen to children and young people, families and professionals so that health services offer the right provision to ensure children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) are able to reach their goals and achieve their outcomes.

Currently, support is designed and delivered by a range of specialist staff and providers, working with different systems and with their own priorities across Health, Education and Social Care.

We aim to improve communication and links between Health, Education and Social Care professionals to ensure coordinated and integrated services.

We will work with families and providers to secure jointly commissioned services that are identified as being appropriate to meet the needs of the local population.

DCO

What do we do?

- ✓ Act as a single point of contact for families seeking health information
- ✓ Act as a single point of access for partner agencies and professionals to improve liaison and communication
- ✓ Participate and engage with children, young people and their families
- ✓ Ensure robust processes are in place to allow for the early identification of children with SEND
- ✓ Ensure all health services are reflected in the Local Offer and that health providers are cooperating with the Local Authority in its development and review
- ✓ Deliver training on the EHCP process and SEND across services, including the voluntary sector
- ✓ Coordinate and offer quality assurance of Health Advice as part of the wider EHCP process
- ✓ Coordinate EHC assessments with other statutory health assessments
- ✓ Answer EHCP queries linked to health provision from parents and professionals





- ✓ Provide a clear process for mediation and oversight of tribunals where there is disagreement regarding the health provision contained in an EHCP
- ✓ Liaise with educational establishments and Youth Offending Teams to support children and young people with medical conditions
- ✓ Contribute to the development of jointly commissioned health services to meet the needs of the local population

Work in progress and action planning

- ✓ Raising awareness of SEND across all health services and ensuring compliance with SEND legislation
 - ✓ Development of an audit tool to identify good practice and areas for improvement when writing EHCP advices
 - ✓ Revision of the Local Offer for health
 - ✓ Joint working to improve and simplify the process for submitting EHCP advices
 - ✓ Development of an audit tool to identify good practice and areas for improvement linked to times of transition between health services
- ✓ **For further support and contact details for The Designated Clinical Officer Team, please click [here](#)**



12. 2. Health Services and Pathways for Children and Young People with SEND

To refer to community services most links can be found on the NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria website <https://www.lscft.nhs.uk/our-services>

Therapies – Speech and Language, Occupational and Physiotherapy

The Children’s Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) service is for children with speech, language, communication and/or eating and drinking difficulties. Speech and Language Therapists work with children who have difficulties with any aspect of speech, language or communication development. Speech and Language Therapists work in schools and in community clinics. Schools can refer a pupil to Speech and Language Therapy.

Paediatric Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy (OT) Services provide targeted specialist intervention for babies, children and young people from birth to 16 years of age (19 years for those with complex needs). The Community Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy teamwork with children and young adults who have a neurodevelopmental or physical disability/impairment. Therapists see children in a variety of settings, including clinics, schools, nurseries or the child’s home, depending on the individual needs and agreed goals of the patient.

To refer a child or young person go to: <https://www.lscft.nhs.uk/citns-slt>

Mental Health

The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) provides a service for children and young people aged 5-16 years who have a range of emotional and behavioural difficulties. The service supports and promotes emotional health and wellbeing. The service is provided by a multidisciplinary team comprising of consultants psychiatrists, psychologists, occupational therapists, family therapists, psychological therapists and a dedicated team of nurses.

The children's Learning Disability/Complex Needs Service for children and young people 0-18 years and the Complex Care and Treatment Teams – post 16 provision are part of this multidisciplinary service.





For additional advice and details on the mental health services in your area go to:

<https://www.healthyyoungmindspsc.co.uk/information/professionals>

Nursing/Outreach/Community Paediatrics 0-16 years (or 0-19 years if at special school)/Neurodevelopment/Child Development

Healthcare which is provided outside hospitals - Community Paediatric Service/Child Development Team. Referrals can be made by a GP, Health Visitor or therapists.

School Nursing Service – works with children and young people, their parents and schools.

Access to support and further details can be found at: <https://www.lscft.nhs.uk/School-Nursing>

Children's Community Learning Disability and Behaviour Support Service - South Cumbria

Support to understand and meet the health needs of children with learning disabilities, global developmental delay and autism. Who we are and what we can provide:

A team of experienced learning disability nurses and assistant practitioners. We are able to offer a service when a child or young person requires specialist support arising from their learning disability or autism and its impacts on their health. We often do this by working to advise parents or other health professionals working with that child.

For further details go to: <https://www.lscft.nhs.uk/services/service-finder-z/learning-disability>

For other children's medical services not listed here do explore the Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS website <https://www.lscft.nhs.uk/our-services>





Other areas of health provision relevant to children with SEND are listed below. Further information about each service can be obtained from Lancashire County Council's Local Offer by clicking [here](#).



