

# Hearing Impairment

The Sensory Education and Support Service



We support families, early years settings and schools to give children with hearing impairments the opportunity to achieve their full potential alongside their friends.

Further information can be obtained from the Team Manager

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The Sensory Education and Support Service (SESS) includes a team of qualified teachers who are Qualified Teachers of Hearing Impaired children, Specialist Sensory Support Teaching Assistants and School Years Teaching Assistants who have been trained to support children with hearing impairments of all ages, in a variety of settings.

## What do we do?

**We support pre-school children at home and in early years settings** monitoring and promoting the development of functional hearing by providing on-going advice to parents on what toys, equipment and strategies to use to develop attention and listening skills, and all forms of communication. We can also advise and support early years staff so that they can provide a stimulating environment and appropriate activities for the child.

**We support primary and secondary school children** planning for the child's transition into the school setting with parents and teachers. Our support includes advising and liaising with school staff to ensure that the child can access the curriculum alongside their peers by using their preferred communication mode and specialist equipment, including hearing aids, cochlear implant processors and FM radio hearing aids.



### Our continuing support includes:

- carrying out functional hearing tests and interpreting and explaining the results to parents, the special educational needs coordinator, class teacher and other professionals
- advising on any necessary specialist equipment and demonstrating its best and safe use to enable the child full and equal access to the curriculum
- advising on modifications to classrooms to improve acoustic conditions so that the hearing impaired child can listen more comfortably
- monitoring language development by using specialist assessments so that we can provide teaching programmes and/or strategies for language development
- liaising with and advising staff about classroom management and supporting school staff to develop materials at the appropriate language level to enable curriculum access
- supporting and advising any support staff working with the child
- providing deaf awareness training for peer groups in school
- providing ongoing assessments, reports and advice for schools and parents
- attending reviews and all associated meetings
- providing training courses on school premises, or at named venues, for teachers, assistants, special needs coordinators, headteachers etc.
- liaising with other Local Authority agencies and also with voluntary organisations