

Advisory Service for Hearing Impairment

Specialist Teaching Services

The Hearing Impaired Service is part of the Specialist Teaching Services team based at the Civic Offices. Our staff have specialist qualifications and training in the education of Deaf and Hearing Impaired children. We have one qualified Teacher of the Deaf and two HI Specialist Support Assistants working in the service.

Benefits of this service

We are able to:

- assess the needs of hearing impaired babies, children and young people;
- work with parents and teachers of hearing impaired babies, children and young people;
- provide 1:1 teaching where appropriate;
- provide deaf awareness training and support to nursery/school/college staff;
- monitor pupil progress and advise on the deaf child's needs
- liaise with other professionals, including Health - Audiology & Speech and Language, Educational Psychologists, Social Services and Voluntary Agencies;
- contribute to statutory assessment for Education Health Care plans;

We work closely with the Audiology staff at St Thomas' Hospital, St George's Hospital, Great Ormond Street Hospital and Queen Mary's Acorn Centre. We also work with the Speech and Language staff at Woodside Clinic and with the Teachers of the Deaf and HI support staff in the HI Provision at Pelham School.

We provide training sessions for education staff in Bexley. This is often held in schools, but can also be held at designated training locations in the borough.

Training can be provided on the following topics:

- Hearing Impairment and Deaf Awareness
- Down Syndrome and Deafness
- Hearing aids/BAHA/Soft Bands: a practical (aimed at staff who need to learn how to replace tubing and batteries, how to help a young child put hearing aids in with confidence etc.
- Introduction to Cochlear Implant Processors
- Radio Aids: a practical
- Sign Language: An introduction to BSL (aimed at parents/carers/staff who may then choose to go on to Signature Level One afterwards)
- Advice on Glue Ear

We also provide training on more specific subjects on request e.g. CMV, and Auditory Neuropathy, use of tablet devices with deaf children

Our service standards

We aim to provide high quality information, advice and support, enabling the deaf children we work with to achieve their full potential.

The Newborn Hearing Screening Programme sets national quality standards for audiology and education services where a child aged 0-2 years is diagnosed with permanent bilateral deafness. The Advisory Service also may apply the standards where there is a diagnosis of one sided (unilateral) deafness, these include standards relating to contact with families on a diagnosis of deafness; information and resources used with families; use of hearing aids, Cochlear Implant processors, provision of alternative communication strategies e.g. BSL, and general support in the home setting for families to support your child's development.

We provide introductory British Sign Language tuition for parents of deaf children living in Bexley. We can also provide details of British Sign Language courses in the borough.

Following assessments and discussion, we can provide on loan Radio Aids and other assistive devices for deaf children in the Bexley borough. We can also provide this equipment for use at home, following consultation with parents/carers.

The Advisory Service uses eligibility criteria to determine our level of support for your child. Depending on the assessed need, involvement can range from visits to home or schools twice a week to one annual visit or monitoring of progress via Audiology reports only.

The service is currently available to all local authority schools and elective academies free of charge. There is no direct cost to parents.

Contact

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