Improving Outcomes for Children and Young People with Vision Impairment and/or Hearing Impairment

Pre-school Sensory Group
There is always the chance to explore different textures through ‘messy play’ and to participate in language development activities, songs and sign.

Deaf Awareness week was a great success!
CST worked with schools and raised awareness in assemblies, classes, small groups. CST suggested ideas on the Local Offer for everyone to join in with.

Vision Impairment
SeeAbility are a national charity working with schools and other settings to increase the understanding of the need for visual assessment and eye care for children and young people with additional needs.

The Harrow teachers for children with vision impairment attended a training session about the charity’s work.

https://www.seeability.org/

Multi-Sensory Impairment (MSI)
We have a new Advisory Teacher for MSI. Her role is to work with children with both vision impairment and hearing impairment. We are planning some exciting courses for staff and parents!
Post 16
The annual ‘Next Steps’ event held at Whitmore High School provides information about educational pathways and academic/financial support for students with additional needs; this year the event was held on 5th March 2019.

CST worked with staff at Whitmore and NHS therapists to organise and run the event. One of the student speakers was Rishi Chandarana who spoke with great passion about the support he has received from his family and from CST for his visual needs throughout his education, prior to starting university in September 2018. Another student, who has a severe hearing impairment spoke about her experience moving to college. She said, “Even though it was difficult at first, if you believe in yourself you'll find you can do it!”

Students with vision impairment at Stanmore College attended an introductory meeting with the charity London Vision. This charity is able to support young people with applying for jobs and practising interview skills.

Parent Events
Please let us know what Parent events you would like. This year CST have offered talks about ‘Positive Parenting’ and ‘Sleep and Anxiety’ presented by Zara Cambridge from CAMHS, as well as ‘Listening Skills for Children with Vision/Hearing Impairment’.

Feedback from service users.
Please go onto the Local Offer www.harrow.gov.uk/cst to read what people say about CST. We are proud and delighted with the feedback!
Day in the life of a team member

My role as Audiology Technician in the Children’s Sensory Team, Harrow

My name is Maria Militello and I am the Audiology Technician for the Children’s Sensory Team in Harrow.

The main part of my job is to supply, log and, where needed, to arrange repairs of Assistive Listening Device (ALD) equipment for Children and young people with hearing impairment. We have a variety of different types of ALD equipment which is upgraded periodically. I ensure all equipment is logged onto our system before being loaned to children, sent for repair or kept in stock. We currently loan equipment to over 100 children and young people.

A CST advisory teacher for children with hearing impairment will assess the child and if they feel that they would benefit from an ALD they let me know. I order the equipment. Once we have the equipment, we train all the people involved in managing, troubleshooting and using the equipment.

We all do our best to ensure that the child has the equipment as quickly as possible.

I try my best to keep up to date with new technology, training and meeting with relevant groups and then I keep CST teachers informed.

As you see, my job is very varied and there is always a lot to do. I enjoy this role as it is interesting and there is never a dull moment!

What’s coming up?

CST Parent Event – Co-Planning Events and Developing the Local Offer

Have the opportunity to discuss events and the CST local offer at a meeting at the Wednesday 3rd July, 9.00am, Pinner Children’s Centre. (Please be aware that the car park is pay and display at all times).

The Children’s Hearing Service Working Group (CHSWG) meets three times a year. This group consists of parents, audiologists, advisory teachers for children with hearing impairment, ENT specialists, speech and language therapists, NDCS representatives and other professionals who work in Brent and Harrow.

The next meeting is Thursday 4th July 2019, 10.00am, Alexandra Avenue Health and Social Care Centre.
Remember - we are here to help!

Contact your allocated CST teacher or CSTBusinessSupport@harrow.gov.uk or helen.forbes-low@harrow.gov.uk  Manager

Go to Harrow Council’s Local Offer to find out more www.harrow.gov.uk/cst