Tell us what you think of this leaflet

We hope that you found this leaflet helpful. If you would like to tell us what you think, please contact us; our contact details are on the front cover.

Teaching, training & research

Our Trust is committed to teaching, training and research to support the development of health and healthcare in our community. Healthcare students may observe consultations for this purpose. You can opt out if you do not want students to observe. We may also ask you if you would like to be involved in our research.

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

PALS offers impartial advice and assistance to patients, their relatives, friends and carers. We can listen to feedback (positive or negative), answer questions and help resolve any concerns about Trust services. PALS can be contacted on 01904 726262, or email pals@york.nhs.uk. An answer phone is available out of hours.
Who can refer my child?
Our service has an open referral system. This means that if you have concerns about your child’s speech, language, communication or feeding you can refer as a parent/carer. Alternatively you can ask your GP, Health Visitor, Paediatrician, School/Nursery or any other professional working with your child to make a referral.

The referral form and guidance are on our website. Please visit www.yorkhospitals.nhs.uk and search for Children’s therapy referral.

What happens at assessment?
At the Assessment Clinic the Speech and Language Therapist will:
• Gather some information about your child’s development so far.
• Discuss your concerns about your child’s speech, language, communication, or feeding.
• Assess your child’s abilities, either informally through play and/or formally through specific assessments.
• Offer advice on how you can support your child.
• Discuss with you the next steps for your child’s care.

Following the assessment you will receive a report, with a summary of the findings, advice and next steps. With your consent, the report will be circulated to the referrer, your child’s GP and any other agencies involved as appropriate.

What form of therapy will my child have?
You will be able to discuss with your Speech and Language Therapist the therapy plan and advice that best fits your child’s needs.

Your child may be booked in for a follow up appointment or a block of therapy appointments in clinic or at your child’s nursery or school. You and key people working with your child will be given verbal or written guidance to help you further support your child between appointments-visits.

When is my child discharged?
As your child’s needs change, your child may not need our input and may be discharged. You and your therapist will be discussing any changes in your child’s needs and how best they can be met.

If your child is discharged and there are further concerns about their speech, language, communication, or feeding, your child can be re-referred to us at any stage for another episode of care.