

Integrated Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy Service



Special Educational
Needs & Disability

BANES Local Offer

What does our service do?

Children and young people are referred to our service if their additional needs and/or complex disabilities are impacting on their ability to access or participate in their activities of daily living. This may be at home, leisure time or within their education setting. Therapy provision may include providing strategies to increase children and young people's independence with specific functional skills and, where needed, provision of specialist equipment for postural support. Our team will work together with the child's family/carers and with other professionals who may be involved, for example education staff.

Our team

Our integrated therapy team is made up of specialised qualified Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy staff, as well as experienced Therapy Support Workers. Physiotherapists' help children develop their movement skills and/or provide postural support equipment if needed. Occupational Therapists help children to access and participate in the activities of daily living that they want and need to do. Therapy Support Workers help provide added input with the therapy programmes provided from the therapy team.

Who does our service provide for?

We accept referrals for children from birth to 18 years old (19 if attending a special school). We see children with a wide range of disabilities and needs. We see children with conditions that they are born with, or have acquired through illness or injury. Their problems may involve muscles, bones, or the nervous system as well as having other impairments that may affect their function e.g. visual or hearing loss.

There are separate specialist teams for children and young people with a diagnosis of Chronic Fatigue Syndrome or chronic pain.

How do children access the service?

Children can be referred into the service from their GP, Paediatrician or by any other health professional e.g. Health Visitor or School Nurse. The occupational therapy team also accept referrals from Special Educational Needs Officers (SENCO) at schools

and nurseries. We do not accept first time referrals from parents or carers. Our waiting time varies depending on number of referrals and staffing levels at any one time. We aim for our maximum waiting time from receipt of referral to be no more than 8 weeks, however we currently have a considerable wait for Occupational Therapy which the commissioners are aware of and we hope to resolve as soon as possible.

Our service is provided through the NHS. We currently do not have the capacity to provide additional service through the use of personal budgets.

How are decisions made about who can use our service?

Referrals are looked at by senior therapists to decide whether our service is the right place to meet the child`s stated needs.

If the referral is appropriate, an appointment is sent to the child`s family/carers for their child to have a first assessment.

If the referral is not appropriate for therapy a letter is sent to the referrer and the family/carers explaining that, as therapy will not benefit the problem which the child has been referred for, the child will not be seen. Sometimes referrals cannot be accepted until there is sufficient information to explain why the referral is required.

What happens following a referral?

After a referral is received by the service a first assessment is carried out to see where therapy input may help. Individual goals are agreed with the child, and / or their family/carers, focusing on what they hope to achieve from therapy. Advice will be given and, if needed, a programme tailored to the child`s individual needs is provided by the therapist. The programme will be built into and around the child`s daily activities, and will need to be supported by the child`s family/carers. Follow up appointments will be made to review progress made and to make any adjustments to the programme that may be required.

The level of service provided is agreed by the clinical commissioning group which sets the staff time and resources available.

Where the service located is and what areas does it cover?

Our service is based at the Children`s Centre at the Royal United Hospital (RUH) and covers the whole of BANES. Appointments for children may be in the Children`s Centre, mainstream or specialist schools and early years settings, or, where appropriate, at home. We also treat children admitted to Children`s ward at the RUH when needed.

How we communicate with service users

We have a comprehensive web page on the RUH intranet site https://www.ruh.nhs.uk/patients/services/childrens_therapies with information about

each service and signposting for more specific condition related information. This is currently being updated.

We provide regular feedback to parents/carers about their child's progress in person as well as by telephone and letters. We keep in touch with parents/carers using phone, text and email. We have access to telephone translation and signing services if needed.

Disabled access

Our base at the Children's Centre in the Royal United Hospital is completely wheelchair accessible and hoists are available if required. There is a large, child friendly waiting area and an outdoor play area. The hospital has a Changing Places accessible toilet a few minutes' walk from the children's centre.

Training requirements for our staff supporting children and young people with SEND

All our qualified staff are required to provide evidence of continuing professional development in order to be registered with our professional bodies. All staff have to complete regular mandatory training in areas such as resuscitation, manual handling and safeguarding. Our staff also access both in-house as well as national training as appropriate.

Who can you contact for further information?

If you think that your child may benefit from being assessed by one of our team, discuss it with one of the professionals who can refer to our service e.g. GP, Health Visitor, SENCO. Once your child has been referred to us you can contact our team either through your allocated therapist or via our office: 01225 824220