

**Request for information under the Freedom of Information Act – 2022.238  
Released – 12 December 2022**

Thank you for your email received 29 November 2022 requesting information regarding speech and language therapy paediatric service.

Please find detailed below a summary of your request, together with our response.

**Summary of your original request:**

**1. What is the w.t.e of the whole speech and language therapy (slt)paediatric service?**

The WTE for SALT within the Trust's paediatric service is 80 WTE.

**2. Have you ever offered an enhanced (sometimes called traded) service for children's slt services in the community? (By 'enhanced' we mean a service that can be purchased in addition to that which is provided as part of what is commonly referred to as your 'core offer')**

Yes

**a) Has this service ceased to operate- if so what was the cause of this?**

In the Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley area we have ceased this service due to staffing capacity.

**b) Do you currently operate an enhanced service?**

Yes, in East and West Kent localities

**If your answer to 2b) is yes please continue ...**

**3. What was the reasoning and anticipated outcomes in setting up the enhanced service?**

To be able to offer a service to schools which enables children to be seen for speech and language therapy who may not meet the service criteria, or to offer a speech and language service which differs from the core service offer.

**4. When did this service begin?**

At least 12 years ago – it has not been possible to ascertain the exact start date

**5. The structure of the enhanced service:**

**a) Are there some staff who work exclusively in the enhanced service?      Yes**

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- b) If so what w.t.e ?** 0.46wte  
**c) Are the staff working exclusively in the enhanced service on permanent or temporary contracts?** Permanent  
**d) Do some staff work in both the regular and enhanced services?** Yes  
**e) Which bands of staff work in the enhanced service? (e.g. 4/5/6/7/8)** 3,4,5,6,7

**6. Do staff working in both regular and enhanced services have the same terms and conditions?**

Yes

**7. Do you have any marketing/ publicity/ information regarding the enhanced service? If yes please provide us with a copy or sign post us to it on your website.**

There is no specific publicity or marketing information available at present. The service responds to direct queries from schools and ascertains what the school would like to achieve and what sort of service would be suitable in order to cost this accurately.

**8. How do you balance demand with capacity in the enhanced service? E.g. if demand for the enhanced service reduces, are staff absorbed back into the regular service?**

Yes – have been able to work in this way to date

**9. Commissioning and contracting arrangements:**

**a) How long are your contracts with settings (please tell us minimum and maximum length of contracts available)?**

Currently 1 year to 3 year contracts in place

**b) How do settings pay for the service? For example, do they pay on delivery or in advance?**

Paid in advance on either a termly or quarterly basis, as agreed within each contract.

**c) How do you cover staff absence? For example, long term sickness and maternity.**

Where the post remains vacant for longer than 4 weeks or where there is going to be a known gap in delivery, the parties meet to discuss and agree a way forward. Sometimes cover can be found but where this is not possible the contract will be paused or ceased.