

Designated Medical Officer (DMO)



Chiara Colonnelli

Also works as a consultant
child and adolescent
psychiatrist in CAMHS for

Designated Clinical Officer (DCO)



James Dodd

Also works as a speech and
language therapist in
community therapies for

- Improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND
- Ensure families are involved and heard at all stages
- Promote partnership working with key agencies including education and social care to advocate for the needs of children and young people with SEND

DMO and DCO roles working with the Local Authority

- Represent health services in SEND processes
 - e.g. sitting on SEN Panel, attending SEND Improvement Board
- Work on shared SEND priorities from health perspective
 - e.g. working on overall quality of EHCPs
- Advise the Local Authority on health matters related to SEND
- Be point of contact for individual cases
 - e.g. sharing data from patient records when needed, advising on cases going to SEND Tribunal

DMO and DCO roles within health services

- Improve quality and timeliness of health advice for EHCPs
- Supporting and training the wider health workforce on SEND processes
 - All health professionals should know the basics about SEND
- Support the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) on commissioning for children with SEND
 - e.g. current work on increasing speech and language provision for 3-5s; reducing waiting times for ASD assessment