

Therapies - Kingston

The Integrated Services for Children with Disabilities (ISCD) includes a number of health teams in Kingston that deliver services commissioned by Kingston Clinical Commissioning Group. All services are accessible to those with a Kingston GP.

Occupational therapy

Occupational therapists aim to help children with a physical, sensory or cognitive disability to be as independent as possible and to enhance their self esteem and sense of achievement in daily activities.

Occupational therapists assess:

- **gross motor skills** - balance, co-ordination, movement across different environments, including postural control
- **fine motor skills** - mark making and pencil skills, ability to manipulate and use toys and equipment.
- **visual perceptual skills** - eye hand co-ordination skills, the ability to follow a ball with the eyes or copy from a chalk board.
- **sensory processing skills** - how the child uses and processes the sensory information within their body to function in their environment and life.

The AfC Paediatric Occupational Therapy Team (Kingston) provides assessment and advice to children aged 0 to 18 who have significant functional difficulties with everyday activities, associated with a disability. These difficulties may be in the areas of self-care, school work or play. Occupational therapy should be an integral part of a child's or young person's life. This is achieved by working with families and schools to put in place the right advice, practical strategies, activity programmes and equipment to address the child's or young person's identified needs. We know that working in partnership with those involved with children and young people will bring greatest benefit and positive outcomes.

Our recommendations may include accessing home programmes, implementing advice and strategies to support the child or young person in achieving their goals. The service is able to respond to requests for commissioned work outside of the core CCG service specification.

Physiotherapy

A physiotherapist will provide assessment and treatment in overcoming movement and physical difficulties, such as problems with balance, coordination, sitting, standing and walking. A physiotherapist may also refer a child to or liaise with other services that the child may need such as orthotics, special seating, wheel chair services. The Physiotherapy Team offer one-to-one interventions and devise physiotherapy programmes that can be delivered by the family or carers at home or by staff in school. Treatment sessions and exercise programs are carried out in fun ways that engage the child's interests and chosen activities. Physiotherapists also assess the child for specialist physiotherapy equipment such as standing frames, walking frames etc.

The AFC Physiotherapy Team (Kingston) provides a service to babies, children and young people up to 18 years of age who have delayed gross motor development, neurological

conditions or neuromuscular conditions resulting in gross motor difficulties. In Kingston, the orthotics service is provided within the ISCD at Moor Lane.

Speech and language therapy

The speech and language therapist aims to reduce the impact of speech, language or communication needs (SLCN) and eating and drinking and swallowing difficulties. This may be by:

- promoting awareness of children's speech and language development and needs by working with parents, carers and a wide range of other professionals to maximise the child's communication environments
- identifying, assessing and defining interventions for children who are experiencing speech, language and communication difficulties. These could include: attention and listening, understanding spoken or signed language, communicating verbally using sentences and vocabulary appropriate for their age, using speech sounds appropriate for their age, social interaction and play, stammering, voice production
- providing appropriate therapies that promote the development of age appropriate communication skills
- providing specialist support to children and young people with complex learning difficulties or health needs
- reducing the impact of eating and drinking and swallowing difficulties caused by medical, neurological or structural abnormalities

The Early Years Speech and Language Therapy Team in Kingston offers a service within the ISCD. Speech and language therapy provide a service in different settings and according to the child's needs, for example in the clinic, nursery or at home. The emphasis is on giving parents, carers and pre-school staff the skills to help develop the child's communication skills. The service also offers support with eating, drinking and swallowing.

Community paediatrics

The Community Paediatrician Service is a specialist child health assessment and diagnostic service to meet the needs of children with special or complex health needs. It works very closely with other health professionals, such children's therapists, and also offers joint assessments and referrals. It also works closely with non-health specialists in education and social care. In Kingston, the paediatricians work in an integrated way as part of the ISCD. They will give advice on health matters and concerns about possible special educational needs, as well as providing diagnostic services and health reports for EHC needs assessments, pre-school neuro-developmental assessments, statutory health assessments and run clinics for children with special or complex health needs.

The Social Communication Team (Kingston)

The Social Communication Assessment Team offers assessment to determine whether or not children have an autism spectrum disorder. The service is available for the under-5s and for those with a disability with a Kingston GP. The team includes: a community paediatrician, speech and language therapist, educational psychologist, clinical psychologist, speech and language advisory teacher.