

Therapies - Richmond

Occupational Therapy

The service has a two path referral system. All referrals need to have clear functional concerns. Referrals without functional concerns will be declined back to the referrer.

Advice: parents can contact the service directly and speak to a therapist who will then triage into an appropriate clinic. This will normally be for an hour's one-off advice appointment.

Assessment: A health or education professional must refer using the appropriate referral forms, the child will then be triaged into our assessment clinic as required. The child must have a Richmond GP.

Occupational therapy provides services for children and young people who are experiencing functional difficulties at school, at home or at play. Therapy aims to enable children to improve their ability to function within their everyday lives, to access the national curriculum more effectively and to reduce difficulties associated with an inability to carry out everyday tasks at home, school and play.

Our service aims to promote, develop and provide high quality, efficient, effective, accessible, family-orientated occupational therapy service for children in the community.

All interventions are carried out respecting the wishes and feelings of the child or young person and in the context of the family, home, recreational and educational setting.

Interventions may include:

- exploration and assessment of the reasons behind the children's functional difficulties
- advice or therapy to enable the child to work and play to the best of their ability
- liaison with parents, carers and other professionals regarding support and progress of the child
- education and training to carers to ensure understanding of and the integration of principals of occupational therapy into all relevant aspects of the child's life.

Physiotherapy

The service accepts referrals from other healthcare professionals. The child must have a Richmond GP.

Written consent from the main care giver is required before the child or young person can be seen.

Children's physiotherapy provides services for children and young people who are referred with conditions which limit physical ability.

We aim to provide timely and responsive access to physiotherapeutic intervention to enable children or young people to achieve their maximal potential for independence and opportunities for life chances.

All interventions are carried out respecting the wishes and feelings of the child or young person and in the context of the family, home, recreational and educational setting.

Interventions may include:

- neurodevelopmental and physiotherapeutic handling and exercise
- provision of home, nursery and school exercise and activity programmes
- prescription, provision and monitoring of equipment and orthoses such as foot splints, to ensure proactive approach to mobility and postural management
- education and training to carers to ensure understanding of and the integration of principals of physiotherapy into all relevant aspects of the child's life. Carers include guardians, parents, family, nursery school and college support and teaching staff
- risk assessment for all areas of life where the physiotherapist has responsibility for the physical management of the child.

Our service aims to provide initial and ongoing assessment to identify immediate physiotherapy intervention needs and early risk factors which may limit physical development in the future.

To provide physiotherapy interventions in accordance with best practice and professional standards that results in improved physical movement.

We work with other professionals in health, education and social care services as well as with voluntary and charitable organisations.

Speech and language therapy

Speech and language therapy has an open referral system. Anyone - for example parents via the telephone advice line, health visitors, school nurses, GPs, schools, nursery or children's centre staff - can refer a child or young person for assessment, including the young person themselves, if aged 14 or over.

Telephone advice line, phone 020 8973 3512

The telephone advice line is a quick way to access our service for advice and information on anything to do with your children's speech, language and communication development. It provides the opportunity to ask a qualified speech and language therapist questions about your child's talking, understanding, concentration and any other issues you may have. No referral is necessary although the therapist may feel following their discussion with you that a referral to the service is indicated. Just call the above number and leave a message for a therapist to call you back.

About the service

Written consent from the main care giver is required before the child or young person can be referred and seen (except in the rare case of a self-referring young person aged 14+).

Speech and language therapy provides services for children and young people in the Richmond borough to enhance the development of the speech, language and communication of all children

It offers assessment and input for children and young people who are having difficulties with:

- attention and listening
- understanding spoken and 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
- feeding and swallowing.

Our service aims to:

- provide information, assessment, advice and treatment for children and young people with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN)
- provide information, assessment and management of feeding and swallowing difficulties
- provide training and support for families and other people involved in the care of those with SLCN
- provide training for professionals who work with children and young people with SLCN
- carry out universal and targeted support in the community to prevent or reduce communication difficulties from developing
- participate in research and development and student therapist training.

Our service is delivered in different settings including clinics, children's centres, special schools and units and mainstream primary and secondary schools.

We work closely with other professionals in health, education and social care as well as with voluntary and charitable organisations in order to deliver an integrated service.

What is speech and language therapy like?

Therapy input will always include offering advice and recommendations on how to support the development of the child's speech language and communication skills within the home and the school. This may include making small adjustments to the way you communicate and interact with the child as well as of adjusting the language and learning environment.

When we work directly with young children, our activities are play-based. We aim for children to learn through playing and having fun. We use toys, pictures, books and whatever else will interest the child in order to get maximum attention and maximise outcomes.

When we work with older children and young people, we still aim to keep activities fun and relaxed but sometimes there will be a greater element of more formal teaching involved.

We work in partnership with parents, teachers and other professionals involved with the child or young person and offer a range of training in a variety of settings as well as part of the borough's workforce development programme. Support from parents and teachers in order to practice new skills at home and integrate targets into the classroom are key to all children and young people's progress.

Community paediatrics

Referral forms for this service can be found at

www.hrch.nhs.uk/our-services/services-directory/hounslow-and-richmond/community-paediatrics

Community paediatrics is a specialist child health assessment and diagnostic service to meet the needs of children with special or complex health needs. We work very closely with other health professionals, such children's therapies, and also offer joint assessments. We also work closely with non-health specialists working in education and social care.

Services include:

- pre-school neuro-developmental assessments
- social communication assessment clinics
- looked-after children's statutory health assessments
- special education needs clinics
- child protection medicals
- attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).