

Review of AHP Support for Children with Statements of Special Educational Needs within Special Schools and Mainstream Education

Terms of Reference for Project

- Purpose
- Background and Context
- Aims
- Scope
- Project Structure
- Governance and
Accountability
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Timescale
- Project Board Membership

January 2014

Purpose of this Document

The purpose of this document is to provide Terms of Reference for the review of Allied Health Professional (AHP) support for children/young people with statements of special educational needs and to outline the expectations from the review.

This document should be read in conjunction with the Project Initiation Document (PID) for Phase 1 of the review, the Terms of Reference for the Project Board and the Engagement plan for phase 1. There will also be a PID and associated documents agreed at a later stage for phase 2 and phase 3.

It contains the following sections:

- Purpose
- Background and Context
- Aims
- Scope and Objectives
- Project Structure
- Governance and Accountability
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Timescale
- Project Board Membership

Project Background and Context

It is important that AHP services meet the assessed needs of children with statements of special educational needs, regardless of what school they attend. However, it is recognised that, throughout the years, services have developed without a regional model. This has the potential to create inequity of provision.

Following a number of queries from special schools and the NI Assembly regarding the level of AHP provision in some special schools, it was agreed that there is a need to establish the current levels and models of AHP service provision throughout the region for children with statements of special educational needs. Once a baseline has been established, recommendations for further action can be agreed. These recommendations will form the basis of a proposed regional model to best meet the needs of all children with statements of special educational needs, irrespective of what school they attend.

Current trends would indicate an increase in the numbers of children identified as having special educational needs in the range of educational facilities in Northern Ireland. This is supported by statistical information available from the Department of Education Northern Ireland (DENI).

Recent statistics, at 2012/13, indicate that there were 14,554 children and young people identified as having a statement of special educational needs in Northern Ireland which equates to approximately 4.4% of the school population.

There are 10,132 pupils with statements in mainstream education and 4,422 in special schools. These statistics, in addition to the queries from education colleagues and Parents, support the need for this review. The review will help develop a baseline of current support provided by Allied Health services and agree recommendations for further action in order to agree a proposed regional model of AHP support. This will facilitate consistency of provision across the region and will ensure children with statements of special educational needs receive the AHP support required to address areas of identified need and alleviate the impact of these on the child's performance.

This review is one of the priorities within the regional HSCB/PHA commissioning plan.

The review will work in partnership with parents, children/young people, education, health and other key stakeholders to achieve a holistic child centred review of AHP provision for children with statements of educational needs.

There will also be opportunity for engagement with representatives from other AHP professions working with children, as appropriate.

Aims of the review

The aim of this review is to agree a proposed regional model of AHP provision to best meet the assessed needs of all children with statements of special educational needs, irrespective of the school they attend.

Scope of Review

The review will mainly focus on services for these children from:

- Physiotherapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Speech and Language Therapy
- Dietetics
- Orthoptics
- Podiatry

The following considerations will be taken into account throughout:

- To have a fully inclusive review which will include the AHP provision and support for children/young people with statements of Special Educational Needs, irrespective of age or the school they attend
- To fully engage in partnership working with key stakeholders including colleagues in Education, Health and Parents/Carers.
- To have an ethos of openness and transparency where information will be made available to all stakeholders. This will include, as appropriate, direct communication and engagement, written correspondence and key information being made available on a web link.
- Design a methodology which captures and analyses high volumes of quantitative and qualitative information.
- To review service models in place in other areas in order to learn from examples of good practice.
- To promote equality of opportunity, good relations and human rights.
- To review lessons learned from phase 1 and build into phase 2.
- To analyse the information gathered in order to agree a proposed regional model and to help inform commissioning.
- To agree a proposed regional model of AHP provision for children with statements of special educational needs which aims to improve health and educational outcomes for these children. This will be subject to agreement with the Minister for Health
- To develop a regional implementation plan.
- To ensure that the agreed proposed regional model represents best value for money

Structure of the Review

The review will be led by the Public Health Agency. A Project Board, chaired by Dr Eddie Rooney, Chief Executive of the Public Health Agency, will oversee the progress of the review.

The Project Board will be informed by views of key stakeholders

Governance and Accountability

The Chair of the Project Board will present updates to the Minister for Health and DHSSPSNI. The Project Board will also provide update reports to the Commissioning Board. The Commissioning Board (CB) brings together Senior Officers from across the Health and Social Care Board and Public Health Agency with the aim of ensuring that the regional commissioning agenda is taken forward on a planned, integrated and co-ordinated basis.

Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder engagement and partnership working is vital to the success of this review. The views of key stakeholders, including children/young people, parents/carers, education colleagues, health colleagues will be sought and taken into consideration.

Timescale

The review will be carried out across 3 phases. These are outlined below with envisaged timescales.

- Phase 1: April 2013-March 2014

Phase 1 will involve a scoping exercise to establish the current levels and models of AHP provision and support for children with statements of special educational needs in Special Schools. It will end with identification of common themes and subsequent recommendations for further action

- Phase 2: April 2014-March 2015

Phase 2 will involve a scoping exercise to establish the current levels and models of AHP provision and support for children with statements of special educational needs in mainstream schools. It will end with identification of common themes and subsequent recommendations for further action.

- Phase 3: Phase 3 April 2015- August 2016

Phase 3 will involve an analysis of common themes and recommendations and the production of a proposed regional model and an implementation plan.

All of the above will be subject to agreement by the Minister.

Project Board Membership

Project Board membership may be expanded throughout the lifespan of the review so that the appropriate members are available at each stage. Within the Phase 1 Project Initiation Document, there is also a description of project structure and engagement.

Dr Eddie Rooney	Chief Executive, Public Health Agency (Chairperson)
Mary Emerson	AHP Consultant Public Health Agency (Project Lead)
Rachel O'Reilly	Project Support, Public Health Agency (PHA)
Clare McGartland MBE	Lead AHP Consultant (PHA)
Adele Graham	Senior Health Intelligence Manager, Public Health Agency (PHA)
Hazel Winning	AHP Lead, Department of Health (DHSSPS)
Caroline Gillan	Director of Access, inclusion and Wellbeing (DENI)
Frances Curran	Special Education Team, Department of Education (DENI)
Fionnuala Mc Andrew	Director of Social Care and Children's services, HSCB
Dr Clare Mangan	Chief Executive, Belfast Education Library Board (BELB)
Carol Diffin	Co- Director, Community Child Health & Child Care, (BHSCT)
Michelle Tennyson	Assistant Director AHP & PPI Public Health Agency
James McAuley	Intern for AHP/Nursing Directorate Public Health Agency

Abbreviations List

PHA	Public Health Agency
AHP	Allied Health Professional
HSCB	Health and Social Care Board
DENI	Department of Education Northern Ireland
SEN	Special Educational Needs
TYC	Transforming Your Care
HCPC	Health Care Professions Council
HR	Human Resources
DHSSPSNI	Department of Health, Social Services, Public Safety Northern Ireland
HSCT	Health and Social Care Trust
NICCY	Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People
BELB	Belfast Education Library Board

This document can be made available in a range of formats on request including audio format, Braille, Easy Read, accessible html. It can be made available on request and where reasonably practicable in further alternative formats, such as large print, DVD or other languages to meet the needs of those for whom English is not a first language.