

Nottingham City Youth Justice Services (YJS) Speech & Language Therapy Pathway

This document describes the pathway for referrals made to the Youth Justice Speech and Language Therapy service and the journey any given Speech, Language and Communication referral will take from the point of entry to exit. At the current time the YJS has 4 days a week of SLT time (0.8 W.T.E), split across the City and the County, equating to two days per service (0.4 City and 0.4 County). The SLT will deliver both a direct clinical and consultative service which supports children and young people accessing the service, as well as professionals within the Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT).

- **Referral Criteria**

Young people known to the Youth Justice Service can access the YJ Speech and Language Therapy service during their time with the YJS. The episode of care can be opened at the point of contact with the YJS or at any stage during their court order. The SLT provision will not continue beyond completion of their Order/time with the YJS.

All YP referred to the service need to be screened using the AssetPlus SLCN screen to identify any overt SLCN currently present. However this will not serve as the only vehicle to prompt an SLT episode of care; staff referral requests, information obtained from the "Communicate" assessment (County), information gained during professional liaison, access to previous medical information and SLT judgement will all inform the decision making process.

All YP on a court order will be screened using the AssetPlus SLCN Screening tool.

- In the County all young people on Out of Court Disposals will be screened using the AssetPlus SLCN screening tool as part of a condensed version of the AssetPlus.
- In the City, Tier 2 Out of Court Disposals will be screened using the AssetPlus SLCN screening tool.

A scoring system will be applied to the AssetPlus to help with the decision making process. An overall score of 20 or above; need to consider making a referral. A score of 16-20; discuss with the SLT for further advice/guidance.

An individual can end an episode of care at any point in time as the service is elective for all individuals

- **Discharge Criteria**

An individual will be discharged under the following conditions:

1. The episode of care is complete
2. A meaningful therapeutic relationship cannot be effectively established (even with considerable effort being made)
3. The individual chooses to end their episode of care
4. The individual is remanded
5. The individual completes their order and is no longer open to the YJS.

- **Timelines**

Referrals will be prioritised following a triage discussion with the referrer; subsequent timelines will be set based on need, urgency, service capacity, and MDT joint working which may influence an episode of care e.g. SLT assessment completed before treatment can be commenced.

- **Onward Referrals**

Sign posting to community services and onward referrals following discharge will be made at the appropriate times and supported by a clear SLT report/covering letter.

Referral Pathway for Speech and Language in the Youth Justice Service

