

SPEECH & LANGUAGE THERAPY SERVICES

General

- The SLT service is in the process of recruiting staff and it is anticipated that ALL of the current vacancies will be filled by the beginning of the Autumn Term 2009.
- The entire SLT Service will be going out to tender in the Autumn Term. The Children's Trust is aiming to have the successful SLT Service(s) in place by the beginning of the 2010/11 financial year. As a result of this process there may be some changes to the current SLT Service delivery from the beginning of the Summer Term 2010.
- The government's agenda around Transforming Community Services may also result in some changes to the current SLT Service provision from the beginning of the 2010/11 financial year.

Early Years

- Early Years service is working with the Local authority on the Every child a Talker (ECaT) project, aimed at raising skills in 20 EY settings in the county and then cascading this to neighbouring settings, and thus to all EY settings. We have also delivered training for staff working in Children's Centres around Speech, Language, and English as an Additional Language.
- The Early years SLT service are also involved in a project run by the Local authority aimed at developing ways of listening to children: "Learning to listen, listening to learn". It aims to find innovative ways of hearing about children's choices and giving their feedback on services for children.

School Age

- As a result of the positive outcomes of the Health and Education Language Project for Schools, **HELP4Schools**, and the lack of continued funding for this way of working, the SLT Service has been working together with the Cognition and Learning Service to sell this service, now called the **Integrated Service for Schools**, to individual primary schools. Over the current academic year 13 schools have bought in this service. A further 6 schools have bought in the service for the forthcoming academic year. An online survey has been distributed to all of the staff who have had access to the Integrated Service Team at each of the schools. The results will be used to improve the service.
- The SLT Service has also been working closely with the Specialist Teaching Service to support children with statements for SLCN and ASD via the **Collaborative Language Support for Schools, CLaSS**, project. Eight primary schools, each with a minimum of 3 singletons, have been participating in the project. Informal feedback from both the SLT and STS staff involved in the project and from teaching staff at the project schools has been very favourable and it is therefore likely that this model of service delivery will be rolled out to more schools in future. An online survey has been distributed to all of the staff involved in the project at each of the schools. The feedback received will be used to improve the service.
- The SLT Service has also distributed an online survey to the **secondary pupils with statements for SLCN and ASD** attending their local mainstream school via their SEN Dept to obtain their views of the current SLT service. A multi-agency Secondary Language Steering group has been set up to evaluate the current services, explore different models and set up a project which will run from Sep 2010 – July 2011 to trial a new way of working.

If you have any queries or questions about this update from SALT, then please direct them to zbayley@buckscc.gov.uk who will forward them to Glynis Haines on your behalf.