

Joint Working Framework

High Incidence Needs Team (Speech, Language and Communication Service) and Northumbria Healthcare NHS Speech and Language Therapy Service

Both the HINT SLCS and NHS SLT team work across Northumberland to support children experiencing difficulties with a wide range of speech, language and communication needs. We recognise that there is crossover in the service offered by each team and that while some educational settings are confidently able to select the team that is most appropriate to meet a child's need, our findings indicate more than half of educational settings find it difficult to decide which service would be most appropriate to support their needs.

HINT SLCS and Northumbria Healthcare NHS SLT have collaborated to develop this Joint Working Framework to support decision making. We have included:

- definitions of terminology used (to support a shared understanding of the content)
- a summary of what each service offers
- flow charts to support decision making when looking for additional support for SLCN in your setting
- key points and a summary of how the teams will work in collaboration to support children.

Definitions

- **HINT SLCS: High Incidence Needs Team (Speech, Language and Communication Service)**
- **NHS SLT: Northumbria Healthcare NHS Speech and Language Therapy**
- Understanding of spoken language/ Receptive Language: The ability to understand words and sentences so that we can follow what is being said to us.
- Use of language/ Spoken Language/ Expressive language: The ability to organise our thoughts and ideas using appropriate vocabulary into grammatically correct sentences ready for talking.
- Speech sounds/ speech sound system: The ability to use sounds to say words clearly.
- Social Communication: The ability to say the right things at the right time in the right way. It involves using speech and language skills to send the messages we want to send to others.
- Stammering: (sometimes known as dysfluency or stuttering) repetition of sounds, words or phrases when talking, stretching out sounds, sound getting stuck and child/ young person unable to get the sound out (blocking).
- Selective mutism: anxiety around communication- inability to speak freely in certain environments/ situations. Diagnosed by a Speech and Language Therapist/ Educational Psychologist.
- Sound awareness/ phonological awareness: understanding of the units that make up words (syllables, onset and rhyme, sounds).
- Voice difficulties: speaking with a persistently unusual voice quality, which might sound croaky, breathy or hoarse

As well as occurring on their own, challenges in the areas above are common in children and young people who have other diagnoses such as autism spectrum disorder, attention deficit disorder, cerebral palsy, cleft palate, learning, physical or hearing difficulties.

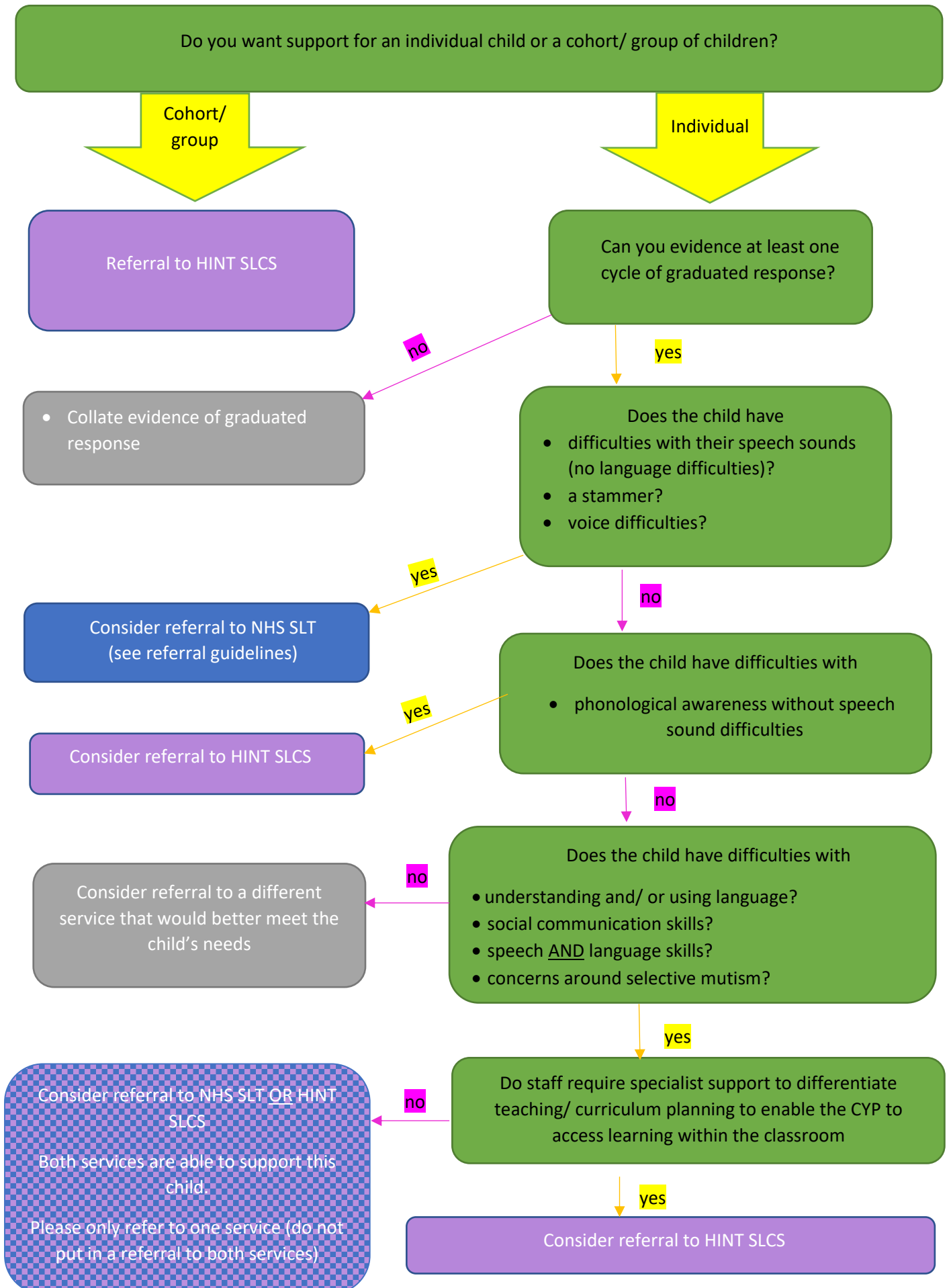


Who we are	We see Children and Young People with:	What we offer
<p>HINT SLCS: Team of Specialist Teachers, Speech and Language Therapists, dual qualified Teacher/Therapists, Specialist Assistant Speech and Language.</p> <p>Referral by School Staff only</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • difficulties understanding and/ or using language • difficulties with speech <u>AND</u> language skills • difficulties with social communication skills • concerns around selective mutism • difficulties with phonological awareness. <p>Children need to have been supported for at least one cycle of graduated response</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial planning meeting with SENCO • Advice and support to school for individual children and groups of children • Demonstration of interventions and strategies for individual children and groups of children • Learner in context (Individual assessment, observation, recommendations, advice, strategies) • Learners in Context (group/ class/ year group/ Key Stage) assessment, recommendations, advice, strategies • Support in differentiating the curriculum for children with SLCN • Substantial training offer (Centralised offer, pre-recorded training, bespoke training) • Parent groups • Specialist Assistant Speech and Language Support (SASL)- individual or group interventions • Work with the team around the child to support them in reducing communication barriers • Support team around the child • Involvement in local authority statutory assessment procedures
<p>For further information about HINT SLCS please visit www.northumberland.gov.uk/Children/Needs/Speech-Language-Communication-Service.aspx#speechlanguagecommunicationservice</p>		
<p>NHS SLT: Team of Speech and Language Therapists, Assistant Speech and Language Therapists</p> <p>Open referral system¹</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • difficulties understanding and/ or using spoken language • difficulties with speech <u>AND</u> language skills • difficulties with social communication skills • concerns around selective mutism • difficulties with speech sounds (in the absence of language difficulties)² • difficulties with phonological awareness related to speech sound difficulties • a stammer • voice difficulties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual assessment initially with parent/carer • Observations of play, social interaction and participation in learning activities • Joint working with settings to inform assessment • Recommendations, advice, strategies (home/ school as appropriate) • Programmes of agreed targets or goals for the child, parents/carers/professionals • Demonstration/coaching of interventions and strategies for individual children (home/ school as appropriate) • Training/coaching for staff/ parents/carers around the needs of individual children • Individual time limited interventions with the child from a Speech and Language Therapist or Assistant Speech and Language Therapist • Multi-agency liaison (e.g. EHA/team around the family) around the child to support in reducing communication barriers to independence and inclusion • Involvement in local authority statutory assessment procedures
<p>For further information about NHS SLT please visit www.northumbria.nhs.uk/our-services/childrens-services/childrens-therapies/childrens-speech-and-language-therapy</p>		

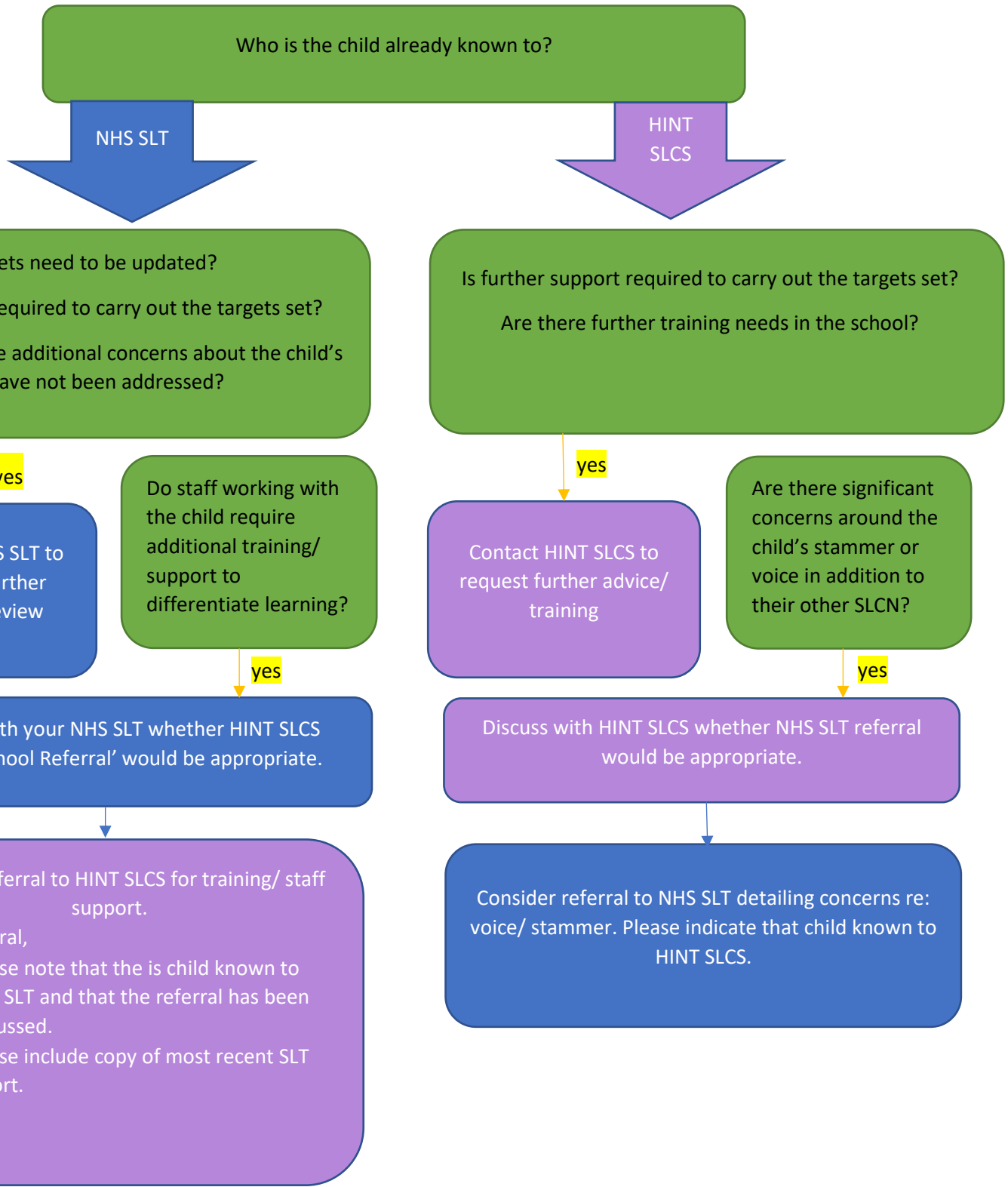
¹ Referral can be made by anyone involved with the child including parents, education staff and health professionals.

² See key point re: transition later in the document

The child is not currently known to HINT SLCS or NHS SLT- Which service do I refer to?



The child is currently known to NHS SLT or HINT SLCS- Who do I contact for further support?



Who is the child already known to?

NHS SLT

HINT SLCS

Do targets need to be updated?

Is support required to carry out the targets set?

Do you have additional concerns about the child's SLCN that have not been addressed?

yes

Contact NHS SLT to request further advice/ review

Do staff working with the child require additional training/ support to differentiate learning?

yes

Discuss with your NHS SLT whether HINT SLCS 'Whole School Referral' would be appropriate.

Consider referral to HINT SLCS for training/ staff support.

On the referral,

- please note that the child is known to NHS SLT and that the referral has been discussed.
- Please include copy of most recent SLT report.

Is further support required to carry out the targets set?

Are there further training needs in the school?

yes

Contact HINT SLCS to request further advice/ training

Are there significant concerns around the child's stammer or voice in addition to their other SLCN?

yes

Discuss with HINT SLCS whether NHS SLT referral would be appropriate.

Consider referral to NHS SLT detailing concerns re: voice/ stammer. Please indicate that child known to HINT SLCS.

HINT SLCS and NHS SLT Joint Working Framework:

Key points to remember

- **Do not refer to BOTH services at the same time.** Both services carry out the same assessments and if this happens it can invalidate the information obtained and affect the advice/ recommendations offered. If you are not sure who to refer to, please refer to the flow charts above or contact
 - NHS SLT (0191 2979019) or
 - HINT SLCS (Libby Jordan: 07927 580 110/
libby.jordan@northumberland.gov.uk) to discuss.
- A child should be involved with one service only if the support offer provided for that child would be the same from either service (see flow charts above).
- A child may be supported by both services where the support offer provided for that child would be different from both services (See flow charts above). ***Where both services are supporting a child the HINT SLCS and NHS SLT members of staff involved with the child will liaise to agree and confirm the support that each service will offer.***
- If the needs of the staff or child change, a referral to the alternative service can be made in discussion with the service currently supporting the child. When referring on to the alternative service, please include this information in your referral.
- If you feel as though the current targets in place for the child are no longer appropriate/ you need support with the targets that have been set, please contact the service who set the targets.
- Where a child presents with predominantly speech sound difficulties
 - and there is **no** history of SLT service involvement (HINT SLCS or NHS), a referral to NHS SLT should be made.
 - and there is a history of support from the HINT SLCS, school can consider whether to access ongoing support through HINT SLCS **OR** to make a new referral to NHS SLT.

HINT SLCS and NHS SLT will continue to collaborate in evaluating and developing this Joint Working Framework.