

Feedback on the Hearing & Deaf Support Team

The Hearing and Deaf Support Team operate an open door policy. Feedback from anyone accessing our service is welcome.

Contacts

For more information, the Hearing & Deaf Support Team can be contacted as follows:

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The Hearing & Deaf Support Team

What is the Hearing & Deaf Support Team?

The Hearing & Deaf Support Team (HDST) provides an island wide, family-friendly service for children and young people 0 to 19 years with a diagnosed hearing loss.

Who works for the Hearing & Deaf Support Team, what do they do and how might they work with my child?

All children with an established diagnosis of hearing loss have access to a Teacher of the Deaf (ToD). The role of the ToD is dependent on the individual needs of the child and their stage in education. Decisions about what kind of support a child needs are made on a case by case basis.

As a minimum, all children's academic progress and social inclusion is monitored from diagnosis to their exit from education. Some children will need direct services by a ToD including specialist assessment and teaching. ToDs also have an advisory role working in partnership with mainstream colleagues, facilitating the successful inclusion of children with a hearing loss. This includes deaf awareness and inset training in supporting mainstream colleagues' understanding of children's hearing, language and learning needs.

In the early years particularly, ToDs will work closely with parents and families supporting their understanding of hearing loss, equipment involved and also the learning needs of their child. In addition, ToDs play a key role in coordinating inter-agency partnership, working very closely with teams of professionals both on and off-island, for example with colleagues at UK paediatric cochlear implant centres.

Audiologists carry out hearing tests, determine the level and type of hearing loss and discuss with parents the options available. As well as fitting hearing aids, audiologists will advise and provide other hearing assistive technology, e.g. Radio systems and soundfield technology in schools and evaluate the benefit of all hearing technology to ensure effective amplification. The audiologist working in education provides an important link between the Health and Education departments.

Some children may require referral to Speech and Language Therapy. Speech and Language Therapists (SaLTs) assess and monitor understanding and use of language, communication and, speech production. They provide advice to staff and parents and intervention programmes for children according to assessed needs. The British Sign Language (BSL) tutor teaches sign language to children to support communication and curriculum access. BSL level 1 and 2 qualifications are also taught to both staff and pupils in the primary and secondary schools with additionally resourced centres (ARCs). The BSL tutor provides a Deaf adult role model, raising deaf awareness and promoting Deaf culture within the schools' communities. A small minority of children may require support from a specialist keyworker. Specialist keyworkers are based in the ARCs. They mainly support children with hearing loss who have high needs and as such, tend to have a Record of Need. The role of a specialist keyworker is to support a child's audiological needs, communication needs and learning needs.

Other professionals that the Hearing and Deaf Support Service may work with include:

- Educational Psychologists
- Senior Practitioner with dDeaf and Hard of Hearing Children & Adults Social Worker
- Lip Reading Tutor
- The extended dDeaf community

How can I get access to the Hearing & Deaf Support Team?

Following diagnosis of a hearing loss, the Audiology Department sends a referral to the Education Department.