

Frequently Asked Questions

- **Why has my school's Link SaLT changed?**

If you have a different Link Therapist to last year, there will have been a reason we needed to do this. For example, to support a change in capacity (e.g. leavers, maternity leave, change of role, internal promotions, etc) and efficient timetables (to ensure we can align allocation days to people's availability across the year)

- **Why is my school's Link SaLT allocation different this year?**

Our starting point is DfE data that SENCos provide. There are a number of factors that are then taken into account alongside this. Historic waiting lists have changed/reduced over the year. We also know more about the needs of the schools and understand more about the time required to gain positive outcomes. In addition, we have to account for SaLT staff vacancy.



Frequently Asked Questions

- **Why is my school's offer different to another school?**

Our work is bespoke to the needs of the children in the setting. Again, this is based on DfE data and local knowledge as well as caseload number / profiles. It is also based on the school age pathway journey and the Whole School Communication Plan (discussed between SaLT and SENCo) which identifies areas for focus at universal, targeted, and specialist levels.

- **My school doesn't have a Link SaLT yet this year – when will we have one?**

We are pleased to report we have had a lot successful recruitment recently. Candidates are very positive about working in Birmingham – they want to work in the Balanced System, and this is attracting high calibre applicants

We will have allocated a Link SaLT to 95% schools by January but we're mindful there will still be a number of schools without a Link SaLT, and we're working hard to mitigate this.



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Frequently Asked Questions

- **How many children should a Link SaLT see in a day?**

Link SaLTs may be supporting schools at Universal, Targeted, and Specialist levels, depending on the priorities and children identified when the Whole School Communication Plan was agreed. It's therefore difficult to answer questions like 'how many children should the Link SaLT see in a day?'. The Link SaLTs have internal guidance around how long pieces of work are likely to take, but there are a lot of factors which impact this e.g.:

- children completing the same assessment can take different amounts of time to complete it,
- some children may require more assessment than others, and analysis of assessment data may take longer,
- a parent phone call could last 3 minutes or 30 minutes.

As with ECTs, our colleagues newer to the profession have additional time in their week to support with planning, seeking support, and completing pieces of clinical admin. As such, a school may, in reality, receive more time than they have been allocated.



Additional Questions

- **“I have a parent who is insisting that the BCHC SaLT team support his son with SaLT for EHCP. Any advice?”**

The NHS SaLT service in Birmingham are not commissioned to deliver provision outlined in EHCPs. A Link SaLT *may* have capacity to deliver, but it is unlikely. However, they will be able to support you in identifying other things you are doing as a school to meet the outcomes outlined in the EHCP.

You may wish to consider buying into additional Speech and Language Therapy support to meet EHCP provisions.

- BCHC Plus (NHS Traded SaLT service)
 - **Telephone:** 0121 466 6266, **Email:** bchc.bchcplus@nhs.net
 - This will involve a meeting with your locality School Age Coordinator (SACo) to determine the school's additional requirements
- There are also multiple Independent SaLT providers working in Birmingham



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Additional Questions

- **“In the targeted part of the [School Age] Pathway, when the Link SaLT observes and offers advice, is that a standardised proforma sent or just verbal advice?”**

We don't have a standardised approach to how we share targeted advice as this can vary depending on the child, group of children, or the outcome we're working with you to achieve.

It's reasonable to ask your school's Link SaLT for a summary of advice in an email if it's been provided verbally.

It's also important that we're working together to measure the impact of these pieces of work, so be sure to let your Link SaLT know how the advice has been implemented and what the outcomes have been.



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Additional Questions

- **Who can I contact if I want to discuss any problems / questions / compliments?**

If you would like to contact us to provide feedback about the SaLT service, processes, the school's allocated Link SaLT, or anything else, please contact your Locality School Age Coordinator:

Locality	SACo	Email Addresses
Central	Anja Primbs	Anja.primbs@nhs.net
East	Tamsin Ruane	Tamsin.ruane@nhs.net
North	Kirsten Newman	Kirsten.newman@nhs.net
North West	Kirsty Griffiths	Kirsty.griffiths3@nhs.net
South	(job share) Laura Adlington Claire Davies	lauraadlington@nhs.net Claire.davies85@nhs.net
South West	Karin McDonald	Karin.mcdonald@nhs.net

You will have received an email from your school's Locality SACo in September 2024 regarding allocation.

If you're not sure which locality your school is in, please see the next slide.



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Additional Questions

- **Which locality is my school in?**

Hopefully this table will support you to identify which locality your school is in.

If not, please don't hesitate to contact any of the SACos on the previous slide and we'll be happy to signpost you to the right person.

Locality	Consortia
Central	Sparkhill
Central	Cole Heath
East	Eastwards
East	FAYS
East	Saltley Plus
North	Erdington
North	Perry Barr
North	Sutton
North West	Aston/Nechells
North West	Handsworth
North West	Ladywood
South	Hall Green
South	Kings Norton
South West	Northfield
South West	Quinborne
South West	Senneleys



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