

Support offered by Speech and Language Therapy in IRD/JII

A Speech and Language Therapist (SLT) can be contacted to support staff working with a child with a disability where there are Child Protection concerns.

This can be done by contacting SLT Management (either Community SLT services or via Child Development Team SLTs).

Mhairi Adams (SLT Lead, Combined Child Health) 01467 672771

Emma-Louise MacPherson (SLT Lead, Aberdeenshire Community) 01467 672731

A child who has a disability (diagnosed or undiagnosed) may not have an open case/active role with SLT due to their speech, language and communication skills being in line with the rest of their development. Therefore by discussing the case with SLT management, this will allow appropriate allocation of support – either with current SLT (if child open to the service) or appropriate therapist (if no active involvement with SLT).

SLT can provide those working with the child:

- Information from previous/current assessment on the child's levels of comprehension and communication method (share reports if previously or currently known).
- Help support planning of the Joint Investigative Interview (or client contact if it doesn't reach JII to help protect and support the child). This will help establish a procedure for the interview – including signs of communication breakdown, where SLT can support, vocabulary being used, reading of non-verbal communication skills, starting with open line of questioning. This may also include information and support to use Alternative and Augmentative Communication tools (e.g. signs or symbols) if the child uses these to support communication. SLT being part of the interview planning will allow an agreement to be made as to how the SLT will support the interviewer to identify a communication breakdown and provide support without compromising the integrity of the interview.
- The SLT will not replace or perform the role of those completing JII but can act as an additional support for a person with a communication difficulty.