

Suki Ahsam

Children's Professional Lead Speech & Language Therapy

- Advise on professional issues for speech and language therapists across East Sussex

Operations Manager, Children's Integrated Therapy Service

- Ensure smooth running of Children's Integrated Therapy Service in Hastings & Rother

Children's Integrated Therapy Service (CITS) – what is it?

- Launched April 2011
- Jointly commissioned by Health and Education
- Provides all children's therapy services in East Sussex under a single management framework

“By developing stronger local strategic planning and commissioning arrangements, local authorities and local health services will play a pivotal role in ensuring that children and young people with SEN...receive high quality support...”

SEN & Disability Green Paper, 2011

Children's Integrated
Therapy Service Strategy
Manager: Julie Caddock

Occupational Therapy
Professional Lead/
Operations Manager
West: Sue Oliver

Physiotherapy
Professional
Lead: Clare
Emery

SLT Professional
Lead/ Operations
Manager East: Suki
Ahsam

Lewes
Area
Team

Eastbourne
Area Team

Weald
Area
Team

Hastings &
St
Leonards
Area Team

Bexhill &
Rother
Area Team

Key aims

- **Champion swift progress to remove inefficiency and service duplication**
 - Before CITS did you know that if a child moved from East to West, he was classed as a new referral and had to wait all over again for an appointment?
- **Improve equity**
 - Before CITS did you know that the most deprived parts of East Sussex also had the poorest investment into therapy services?
- **Improve outcomes for children and families**
 - CITS responded to parental concerns that the named therapist changed at the point of transition into school and our Early Years Service now continues until the end of the Foundation Stage

It's easy to refer

- Check which area team you are in
- There's one referral form
 - Telephone your area team administrator
 - Find it on the ESCC Czone website
 - Soon to be on East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust website
- Complete the form, get parental consent and send in to your area team
 - If you've sent it to the wrong team, don't worry – we'll forward it for you

What can you expect?

- When we receive your referral
 - we will provide you with advice to tide you over while you wait for the initial assessment
 - and a questionnaire to complete and return so we can provide a high quality initial assessment
- We will prioritise your referral so that each child is seen in as timely a way as possible
- We offer a team approach – this means therapists work closely with each other, parents/carers and other agencies and take care not to duplicate resources

At CITS, we aim to support
you to enable your child to
reach her full potential

Our focus is functional skill
development

Our advice and programmes
reflect this



Children's Integrated Therapy Service

01323 514360