



## Children and Young People's Services

# The Roles of People Working with Your Child/Young Person

## SENCO

A SENCO is a qualified and experienced teacher with the additional qualification in Special Educational Needs, who is appointed to act as a Special Needs Co-ordinator for all children/young people with Special Educational Need and Disability (SEND) within an educational environment.

The role includes:

- Collecting, recording and updating information about individual children and young people with specific needs.
- Closely liaising with parents and professionals when identifying and planning interventions and support
- Provide and give advice and support to colleagues in the setting and secure appropriate training as required.
- Plan Review Meetings for all children/young people, with special educational needs.
- Ensure targets are set, monitored and evaluated for individual children/young people with special needs.
- Responsibility for ensuring a smooth transition through a child/young person's educational journey e.g., primary and secondary education.

## Qualified Teacher of the Vision Impaired

The QTVI (Qualified Teacher of the Visually Impaired) – a qualified teacher of children with a visual impairment who provides support and advice to parents, teachers and statementing officers throughout the child's school years and will visit at home or at the school your child attends. The QTVI will most likely follow your child throughout the education years and may visit you and your child at home in the early years following diagnosis.



## **Teaching/Learning Support Assistant**

A Teaching/Learning Support Assistant works alongside pupils on agreed targets, as well as giving in-class support. The Teaching/Learning Support Assistant may be involved in lesson planning, preparation and the modification of teaching and learning materials, to meet specific need. Teaching/Learning Support Assistants may support whole classes, small groups or an individual child. Teaching/Learning Support Assistants may also be called by other names for example, Special Support Assistant, Education Support Assistant.

## **Education Psychologist**

The Educational Psychologist – is employed by the Local Authority and may be a qualified teacher. The Education Psychologist is the person who will assess a child's learning needs and social skills and often co-ordinates assessments of children for Statements. This person is most likely to be involved with your child after the age of two when many children are statutorily assessed prior to early educational support.

## **Speech and Language Therapist (SALT)**

The Speech and Language Therapist (SALT) – helps children who may have difficulties with the development of language and communication skills and advise on feeding and swallowing difficulties.

## **The Occupational Therapist**

The Occupational Therapist is aware of the unique educational needs of the visually impaired child with visual impairment, particularly with regard to sensory and motor skills. The Occupational Therapist assesses the sensory, perceptual, social and emotional wellbeing of the child and through activities and play helps to maximize the child's abilities, leading to greater self-esteem and independence. Occupational Therapists can provide advice on equipment and adaptations to your home to promote independent living.

## **The Physiotherapist**

The Physiotherapist can suggest routines to help development with regard to crawling, walking, posture and the encouragement for visually impaired children to move confidently. They can also help develop good muscle tone in children with other physical problems. The Physiotherapist can advise on aids to help development.



## **Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)**

CAMHS is used as a term for all services that work with children and young people who have difficulties with their emotional or behavioural wellbeing. CAMHS provides expert knowledge to professionals, parents and young people through a Parents' Helpline, online resources, training and development, outreach work and publications. The service focuses on the needs of children and young people and has multi-disciplinary teams of professional people, including for example, Psychiatrists, Psychologists, Social Workers, Nurses, Support Workers, Occupational Therapists and Psychological Therapists. Local areas have a number of different support services available, these can be in the statutory, voluntary or school-based sector, such as an NHS trust, local authority, school or charitable organisation.

## **Information, Advice & Support Services Network (formerly Parent Partnership)**

The Information, Advice and Support Services Network (IASS Network) supports and promotes the work of Information, Advice and Support (IAS) Services across England. IAS Services have a duty to provide information, advice and support to disabled children and young people, and those with SEN, and their parents, they are statutory services which means there has to be one in every local authority. Disabled children and young people and those with SEN, have a right to receive direct and impartial information, advice and support on a wide range of matters relating to their SEN/Disability covering education, health and social care.

## **Careers/Connexions Personal Advisors**

Careers/Connexions Personal Advisors provide one-to-one support and guidance. Some of the work will be very close to the advisory and guidance role previously exercised by careers officers. Advisers are expected to maintain contact with the young people allotted to them and to keep records and enter details into the national database. The Career/Connexions Advisor provides general advice and support at key points in each young person's life when information, advice and support on educational and vocational issues will be necessary to help them make decisions that affect their future. Support is provided to young people who have learning difficulties or disabilities, who are unlikely to achieve as they should and those who are not undertaking any education or training post-16. Careers/Connexions Advisers will be expected to be advocates, especially for those who are vulnerable or who have special or particular needs, help young people to access a range of more



specialist services, to ensure that barriers are overcome in a coordinated way and keep in touch with their progress.

## **The Portage Worker**

The Portage Workers is a home-visiting educational service for pre-school children with disabilities, providing support to your child assisting with the development of play, communication and relationships, by providing a programme to build on. Portage Workers are not available in all areas of the UK.

## **Habilitation/Rehabilitation/Mobility Officer/ROVIC (Rehabilitation Officer Visually Impaired Children)**

Habilitation Officer/Mobility Officer provides training to children with visual impairment in life skills and independent living skills both indoors and outside, for example, how to cross roads and may also introduce programmes to include cane techniques, including orientation, mobility and life skills, for example money handling.

For further support contact:

Tel: 0800 781 1444

Email: [cypservices@guidedogs.org.uk](mailto:cypservices@guidedogs.org.uk)