



## **Support Services for Education Staff to Meet the Needs of Children and Young People Who Have Speech, Language and Communication Needs**

Aberdeenshire is committed to [Getting it Right For Every Child](#) and through collaboration with partner agencies ensure the most relevant and up to date resources and strategies are used.

### **Aberdeenshire Specialist Technology Service (ASPECTS)**

[Aberdeenshire Specialist Technology Service \(ASPECTS\)](#) is a service that specialises in sourcing, developing and using assistive technology to support Aberdeenshire pupils with significant and complex additional support needs. ASPECTS aims to assist pupils whose curricular access needs cannot be met using standard school technology. ASPECTS can provide advice, training, software and hardware, as appropriate to the needs of the pupil.

ASPECTS' involvement may be sought through the submission of a referral from a school, Educational Psychologist, or other support service. Children referred to ASPECTS should be at Stage 3 and 2 of the Staged Intervention Model with significant and complex needs. (Priority will be given to Stage 3 pupils.). ASPECTS works with all other professionals around the child to offer a complete, supportive service.

### **English as an Additional Language (EAL) Service**

Aberdeenshire is home to a number of families for whom English is not their first language. Aberdeenshire's [English as an Additional Language \(EAL\) Service](#) becomes involved when a referral is made to the service. This is followed by an initial assessment where the level of English and appropriate level of support is determined. There is a range of options which can support communication with pupils and families who speak English as an Additional Language.

### **Aberdeenshire Sensory Support Service**

[Aberdeenshire Sensory Support Service](#) is a peripatetic service staffed by teachers who specialise in working with pupils with a hearing or visual impairment. Once a referral has been made by a hospital specialist, parent/carer, school or other professional, an assessment will take place and recommendations made on how the child's needs can best be met.

The specialist will provide information, practical help and advice as well as monitor progress, provide reports and attend review meetings.



## **Speech and Language Therapy Service**

[Speech and Language Therapy](#) is a NHS service providing community support to adults and children with speech, language and communication needs.

Requests for assistance can be made directly by anyone who has concerns, in most cases this is usually the parent/carer or young person. Those with concerns are encouraged to call their local therapist directly. A therapist will arrange an initial conversation within 2 weeks of any request for input. Education staff please refer to the [Local Partner Information](#) provided by the Paediatric Speech and Language Therapy Service for further information about support.

[NHSG Aberdeenshire Children's Speech & Language Therapy Service | Facebook](#)

## **Educational Psychology Service**

[Educational Psychology Service](#) work collaboratively with children, young people and their families, school staff and a wide range of other professionals to help reach a shared understanding of the child / young person's additional support needs and develop a support plan to meet those needs. The service can be accessed via the school link person, who is usually a member of the senior leadership team.