

## Moving and Handling Coordinator for C&YPS

### COST OF THE SERVICE

The service is provided for children and young people by a Specialist Physiotherapist working full time in schools and other settings across the Borough.

The service with on costs is £48,893 per year for the provision of a moving and handling service to **all** Rotherham schools.

If the current service is not sustained, moving and handling courses alone would cost £350 per training session if sourced externally. Other activities would need to be commissioned separately.

### ACTIVITY

During the academic year September 2009 – July 2010 the following activities were carried out by the Moving and Handling Coordinator:

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| • M&H sessions taught:<br>(total cost of £25,550 if sourced externally) | 73  |
| • Establishments receiving moving and handling training:                | 43  |
| • People receiving moving and handling training:                        | 435 |
| • M&H teaching hours:   | 272 |

#### Other Activities That Would Charged Separately:

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| • Individual pupil manual handling assessments:<br>24                                |     |
| • M&H assessments of school premises related to a specific pupils:                   | 49  |
| • Individual pupil annual reviews attended (relating to M&H):                        | 12  |
| • Individual pupils requiring greater input regarding M&H problems/risk assessments: | 38  |
| • Primary schools visited re. audit of disabled toilet facilities:                   | 102 |

This work includes the following specific activities:

#### **Prior to starting school support from the Moving and Handling Coordinator may include all or some of the following as appropriate:**

- Providing advice to schools on their premises regarding accessibility
- Working in conjunction with the physiotherapists, occupational therapists recommendations, and building managers and architects, ensuring the child has the appropriate furniture and equipment in place so the child can access a broad and balanced curriculum in their school setting
- Making recommendations in relation to the accessibility of schools
- Providing support to preschool provisions with regard to initiating and supporting the statutory assessment process
- Providing advice and support in relation to risk assessment and manual handling issues

- Disability awareness and providing specific advice in relation to specific physical disabilities
- Establishing good liaison/communication between the school, health professionals
- Providing advice on pupil induction programmes to ensure a smooth transition for the child.

**Once the child with an identified physical disability is at school the Moving and Handling Coordinator can support by:**

- Assisting school with writing manual handling plans and risk assessments
- Assisting schools in managing potential problems by providing competence based assessments on staff after 3 months, and risk assessment monitoring followed by a 6 month re-visit.
- Providing annual update/refresher training in accordance with 'best practice'.
- Observing the pupil/staff and providing any necessary feedback to staff, class teacher, SENCOs and health professionals
- Raising staff awareness of specific physical disabilities and disability in general
- Providing ongoing advice and guidance to teachers and teaching assistants on issues and problems that arise
- Signposting parents and school staff to other support agencies or sources of useful information and support
- Liaising closely with physiotherapists and occupational therapists to ensure the pupil's physical needs are being met and ensuring that the pupil has the appropriate equipment to access the curriculum
- Promoting inclusive practices
- Providing support in relation to annual reviews
- Helping with preparation and planning for the pupil's transition between key stages

### BENEFITS OF THE CURRENT SERVICE

**Moving and handling is a statutory service** fulfilling legislation related to the Discrimination Disability and Safety at Work Acts. The benefits of the service are:

- Compliance with the above legislation
- CYPs services and schools are enabled in their responsibility to create safe, supportive learning and caring environments for all students who may have physical or mobility difficulties
- Children with moving and handling needs are enabled to attend the appropriate special or mainstream school
- Teachers and other school staff have access to the required training, risk assessment and advice to work safely with this group of children
- Where specific equipment is required, schools will have received the moving and handling training required, prior to the training to use equipment specific to one child.
- School staff have the confidence to work safely and avoid back or other injuries
- The post holder is a highly specialist physiotherapist in the field of paediatrics and can provide bespoke advice for each child linked to their occupational and physiotherapy needs.
- Early identification of a child's special educational needs and timely intervention to ensure seamless transition for the child, parents and school

## CONSEQUENCES OF DECOMMISSIONING

Risks/consequences associated with decommissioning of the service:

- Children with specific needs relating to moving and handling will not be able to access school
- Staff will be at greater risk of injury
- The authority will not be able to fulfil its statutory duties under the Safety at Work Act to ensure the health and safety of staff.
- Hoisting equipment cannot be used in school settings without the appropriate risk management and training
- Schools will not be able to comply with mandatory moving and handling training
- Specialist equipment including walkers and standing frames cannot be used in school without the implementation of basic training as a precursor to specific training
- In some cases choice of local mainstream school may be limited where the appropriate modifications to the environment have not been recommended and provided thus compromising the inclusive agenda
- Service will be withdrawn from other local authority settings e.g. Bramley House, Aiming High projects, after school clubs and some recreation facilities with relation to compliance with the DDA (child specific)
- Some moving and handling equipment in schools may not be properly maintained
- Children will not be able to use the school transport service without the team having access to moving and handling training
- There is an increased risk that children requiring this specialist support would need to be educated outside the Borough at a cost of £40,000 a year for each child

## CORE SERVICE

Should the above service be decommissioned there will be no moving and handling service for schools and other services accessed by children and young people and only the following core service will be available from Physiotherapy:

- Assessment and management of user needs with regards to physical ability, developmental level and ability to function within the educational setting, and works with all carers involved as appropriate to meet the users' needs on an ongoing basis.
- The service will carry out risk assessments and management related to aspects of physiotherapy care involving the service user and related carers.
- Recommendations will be discussed with immediate carers to establish agreed goals.
- Appropriate individualised treatment/management plan will be formulated for all children under the care of the service.
- Relevant information, advice and education are provided to carers, teachers and other health care professionals on equipment recommendation, exercise programmes and positional advice (including risk management).

In addition to the above the Occupational Therapy team provides:

- A range of specialist therapy assessments and interventions within the context of the multi-disciplinary team and appropriate liaison with external agencies and referrers.
- Assessment to alleviate and treat physical disabilities, motor disorders, functional difficulties and developmental problems in children and young people.
- To focus resources where they are to be most effective in terms of the Occupational Therapist's contribution to the child's quality of life by using activity, equipment, positioning and environmental adaptations to achieve agreed outcomes.

- Collate and co-ordinate information so that the best interests of the child are met. This is a key role in relation to the interface between multi-agency working and between primary and secondary care.

Neither of these core services are able to provide the total package of care which each child needs to access school and the curriculum without the work carried out by the Moving and Handling Coordinator.

*We would value your feedback regarding whether your school uses this service and its value for your students.*

*Please complete the short questionnaire below and return by e-mail by 13 May 2011.*

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**FEEDBACK**

Does your school currently use the moving and handling service? YES/NO

What are the benefits for the school/young person?

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What other services are available in school for children with moving and handling needs to replace the work carried out by the Moving and handling Coordinator?

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Name of School (Optional).....