

Other Professionals Contributing to Safeguarding P and D in Personal Care

All education staff working with pupils with SLD/PMLD/CLD will encounter other professionals from Health and Social Care disciplines who make a significant contribution to the quality of provision that the school is able to make in meeting the personal care and medical needs of pupils. It is likely that most of this support will be in an advisory capacity to teachers and education support staff rather than regular direct intervention with the pupil. The list below shows those most likely to be encountered but is not intended to be exhaustive:

- **School Nurse** – has a key role in liaison between schools, families and other health staff in relation to medical/physical/health needs of pupils.
- **Speech and Language Therapist** – is the lead professional in the area of communication skills and also provides intervention and advice in relation to those with feeding difficulties.
- **Physiotherapist** – provides specific support in relation to the management of those with physical disabilities including; physiotherapy programmes; procurement of specialist equipment such as wheelchairs and standers; advice re hydrotherapy; post-operative care.
- **Occupational Therapist** – lead professional in the development of functional and independent living skills. They may work with the physiotherapy service in relation to specialist equipment at home and school. OTs also carry out sensory assessment for ASD pupils.
- **Specialist Teachers for Hearing Impairment, Visual Impairment and Multi-sensory Impairment** – most Local Authorities retain a core team of specialist teaching staff in these areas who have a caseload, complete assessments, link with specialist hospital services and supply advice and support to school staff.
- **Educational Psychologist** – may be involved in overall assessments and the provision of advice. In many areas this is limited to statutory assessments and related advice.
- **Consultant Paediatrician** – has overall medical/health responsibility for pupils with additional needs. The development of a close working relationship with the school is especially helpful and much valued by families.
- **Community Learning Disabilities Team** – specialist health team that supports children, young people and adults with learning disabilities at home. They will usually focus on specific areas of difficulties identified by families, e.g. sleep issues, eating problems, management of continence.
- **Community Paediatric Nurses** – provide advice and support to families and carers around specialist areas such as diabetes, continence, oxygen, gastrostomy management.
- **Dietician** – advice and support to families and carers around nutrition.
- **Social Carers** – provide regular respite care to children and families either in their homes or in residential settings. This may also include carers in children's hospices where pupils have life limiting conditions.