Speech and Language Impairment Needs Assessment

Selection: North Lincolnshire UA Geographies: Local Authority

Developed in conjunction with the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT)

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- Speech and Language Impairment
- Autism
- Commissioning

Overview

The Information set out here is an estimate of the incidence of issues requiring speech and language development support. It is provided to help you in the needs assessment stage of service planning.

Incidence is the number of new children identified with speech and language difficulties.

Although this information does not tell you about the total number of children and young people who have speech and language difficulties (the prevalence), it does provide an estimate of service demand for your local area and can help you identify your local priorities.

Speech and Language Impairment

Incidence

There were 1,840 live births in North Lincolnshire UA in 2013.

Based on these figures, the following incidence of language disorder or delay would be expected:

Incidence of language disorder or delay

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North Lincolnshire UA</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>39</td>
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There is an incidence of two boys for every one girl with a language disorder or delay - a ratio of 2:1.

Columns may not sum to total due to rounding

Prevalence estimates

Speech and language impairment prevalence estimates.

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<th>North Lincolnshire UA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age 0-16 (Prevalence 1.3%) (2008)</td>
<td>420</td>
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<tr>
<td>Age 3-5 (Prevalence 1.5%) (2008)</td>
<td>80</td>
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<td>Age 5-7 (Prevalence 4.6%) (2008)</td>
<td>244</td>
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<tr>
<td>Age 6-12 (Prevalence 12.6%) (2008)</td>
<td>1,643</td>
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<td>Age 12-14 (Prevalence 7.3%) (2008)</td>
<td>439</td>
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<td>Age 3 (Prevalence 14%) (2008)</td>
<td>253</td>
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<td>Age 6 Prevalence (3.8%) (2008)</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
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<td>Age 0-4 (Prevalence 10%) (2008)</td>
<td>930</td>
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<td>Age 0-4 (Prevalence 15%) (2008)</td>
<td>1,394</td>
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<td>Age 5-17 (Prevalence 6%) (2008)</td>
<td>1,512</td>
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This major piece of work forms part of a range of RCSLT tools that can support leaders with the planning commissioning and delivery of services in line with government and local priorities.

**Autism**

**Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD)**

A study of 56,946 children in South East London by Baird et al (2006) estimated the prevalence of autism in children aged 9 to 10 years at 38.9 per 10,000 and that of other ASDs at 77.2 per 10,000, making the total prevalence of all ASDs 116.1 per 10,000.

A survey by Baron-Cohen et al (2009) of autism-spectrum conditions using the Special Educational Needs (SEN) register alongside a survey of children in schools aged 5 to 9 years produced prevalence estimates of autism-spectrum conditions of 94 per 10,000 and 99 per 10,000 respectively. The ratio of known to unknown cases is about 3:2. Taken together, a prevalence of 157 per 10,000 has been estimated, including previously undiagnosed cases.

The European Commission (2005) highlights the problems associated with establishing prevalence rates for Autistic Spectrum Disorders. These include the absence of long-term studies of psychiatric case registers and inconsistencies of definition over time and between locations.

Nonetheless the Commission estimates that according to the existing information, the age-specific prevalence rates for 'classical autism' in the European Union (EU) could be estimated as varying from 3.3 to 16.0 per 10,000. These rates could however increase to a range estimated between 30 and 63 per 10,000 when all forms of autism spectrum disorders are included. Debate remains about the validity and usefulness of a broad definition of autism. The EU definition of rare diseases focuses on those diseases lower than 5 per 10,000. The Commission notes that ASD could be considered as a rare disease using the most restrictive diagnosis criteria but it seems more appropriate to not refer to ASD as a rare disease.

The next table shows the numbers of children with autistic spectrum disorders if the prevalence rates found by Baird et al (2006) and by Baron-Cohen et al (2009) were applied to the population of North Lincolnshire UA.

**Estimated number of children with autistic spectrum disorders**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North Lincolnshire UA</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>148</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


**Commissioning**

Commissioning tools for improved outcomes for children with speech, language and communication difficulties are available at: