

Devon STP

Improving Access to
Communication
Services and Support
(IACSS) Programme

Together for
Devon
Health and care working in partnership with local communities
in Plymouth, Torbay and the rest of the county

Devon Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP)

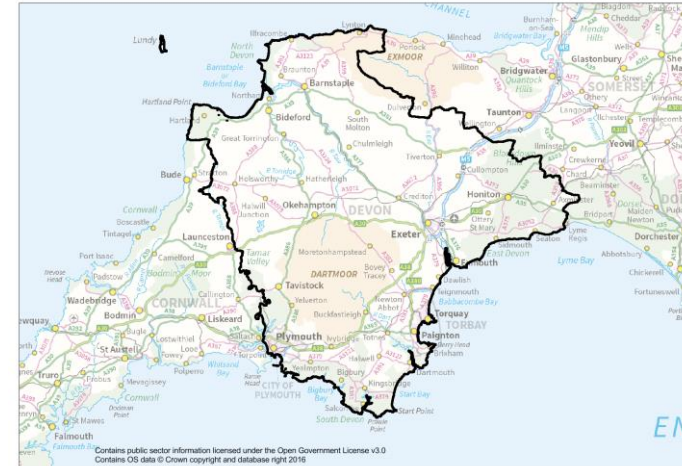
Devon STP is made up of Plymouth, Torbay and Devon.

Commissioners across the STP recognise that:

‘at a local level, we need strong leadership to ensure that speech, language and communication is integral to local plans and that integrated systems are put in place to support children and young people with SLCN’.

Bercow 10 years on

The IACSS programme provides a forum to achieve this by bringing together stakeholders (commissioners and service providers) from across health, education and social care as well as parents/carers, children and young people.

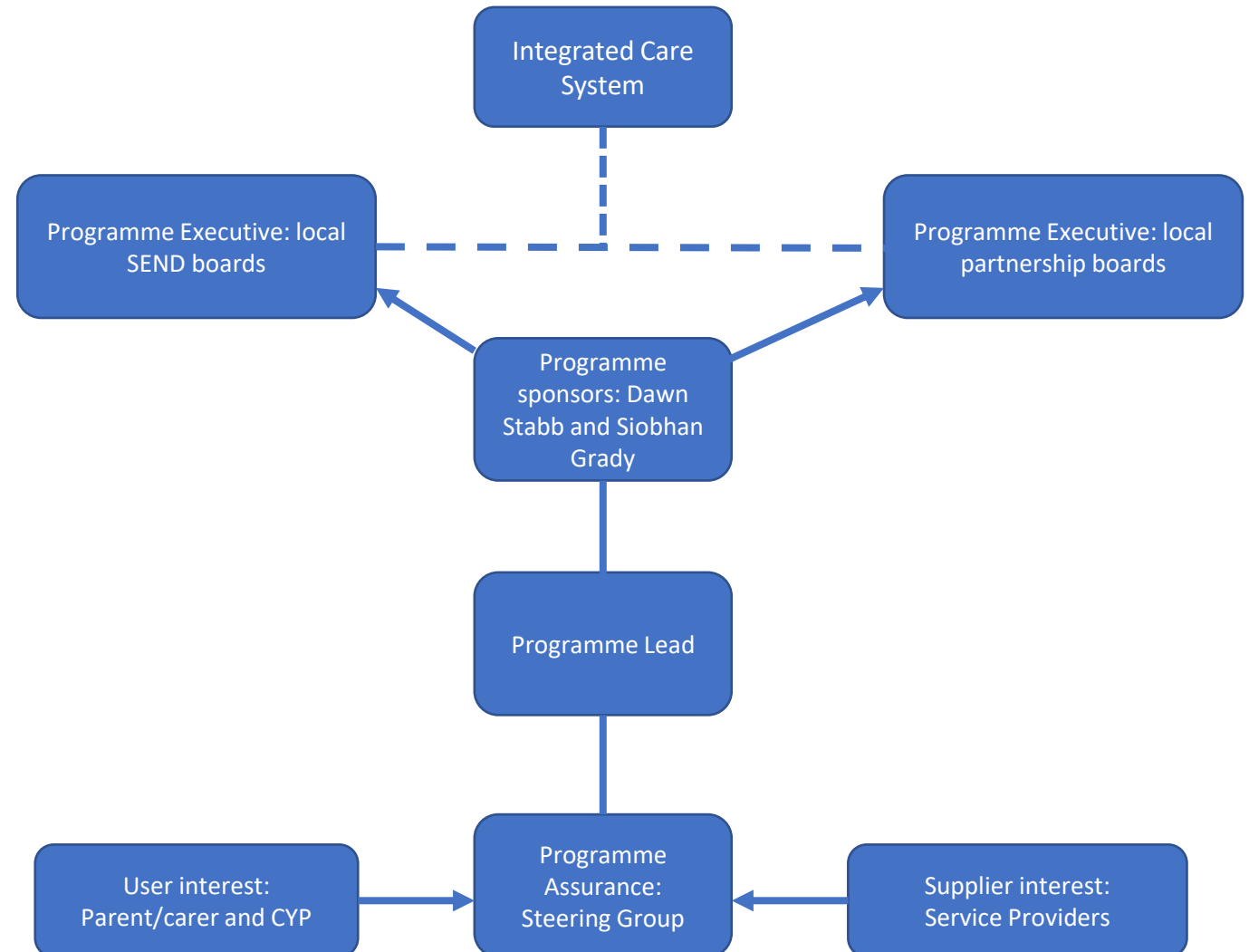


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IACSS Steering Group membership include representatives from:

- Commissioning bodies from each authority (Health, Education and Social Care)
- Public Health from each authority
- Children and Family Health Devon
- Livewell Southwest
- Babcock LDP (SEND/Inclusion and Early Years)
- Torbay Education/SEND/Early Years
- Plymouth Education/SEND/Early Years
- Vranch House
- AAC West lead
- Parent Carer Forums
- Information and Advice Services
- Inclusion/Edge of Care
- Children Centres
- Youth Offending Service
- Parent/carers

Governance Structure



Working together to understand and meet the needs across the WHOLE of Devon.

During 2018 a comprehensive needs assessment was undertaken to help understand, plan and evaluate services that support children and young people with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN).

Better Communication CIC were commissioned to support this piece of work using the evidenced based framework called The Balanced System®.

For a definition of SLCN please see the Catalise model ([CATALISE: a multinational and multidisciplinary Delphi consensus study of problems with language development: Terminology](#) and [Venn diagram to illustrate SLCN](#)).



‘Speech, language and communication are foundation life skills. Children’s communication is everyone’s business. However, speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) rarely feature in national policies. The result is an absence of integrated system-wide approaches to supporting children and young people with SLCN, both locally and nationally.

Without a clear and unified message from the highest levels in both education and health, support will continue to be inconsistent and insufficient. Many children and young people will miss out on the support they need, and the impact will be costly, both to the economy and society’.

[Bercow Report](#)

**ACROSS DEVON WE ARE WORKING
TOGETHER TO ADDRESS THIS**

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Devon

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IACSS programme:

Aims to ensure there is:

- a collective emphasis on prevention/promotion/early help
- capacity across all stakeholders to ensure there is a cohesive and effective offer to all children and young people
- there is greater transparency in relation to the community-based support available – emphasising the principle of ‘right support at the right time in the right place’
- improved outcomes for vulnerable children and young people with life-long SLCN in line with national evidence and recommendations
- Children and young people/parents/carers/wider workforce feel empowered to access, manage and review the support available and ability to influence service design and implementation

Through:

- system wide change so that there is an integrated, person centred and needs led approach
- ensuring that access to and through the system is as simple as possible
- developing and embedding a whole system approach that impact on outcomes for children and young people.

AAC users are able to successfully communicate in a range of contexts because other people know about AAC and how they communicate.

Families and young people with SLCN are supported to make choices and access services. People who use AAC are able to engage in education, work or leisure activities

Parents and CYPS lived experiences of SLCN support is of an integrated service that works together, and with them, to ensure CYPS receive the right support at the right time

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Improvements in well-being

Stakeholders have access to high quality support and advice services at every point of their journey.

Individual potential and life chances maximised

Transformation

Improve SLCN offer and waiting times

Improved access to services and support through joint working (system collaboration)

Minimise variation between different geographical areas

CYPS will be able to access differential diagnostic assessments that are in line with best practice

Informed commissioning processes are in place to ensure the right mix of services are available to support children and young people achieve better outcomes.

IACSS programme is currently focusing on these 4 areas

AAC

Antenatal-5yrs offer and opportunities

Parents and CYPS lived experience of SLC/ SLCN support is of an integrated service that works together, and with them, to ensure CYPS, receive the right support at the right time.

Data protocols are in place to ensure information is comparable across the system at specific review points

More children reach expected levels in CLL at EYFSP – see national guidance and expectations for 2028

SLCN and SEMH



Communication
is everyone's
business