**Hearing Impairment Service (VIS)**

The HIS provides advice and information to parents/carers and staff in education settings on hearing conditions, classroom management, risk assessments, environmental audits, access arrangements for examinations, transition phases. We work with children and young people from birth to 25 years.

We provide specialist teaching to develop language and listening as well as ongoing assessment of functional listening and contribute to individual communication programmes. We support and advise on the use of specialist equipment and training in the use of hearing aids, bone conduction aids, cochlear implants, soundfield systems and personal remote microphones which enable children and young people to access the curriculum.

We work in a multi-disciplinary manner with families, professionals, and other agencies such as health and social care. We attend and contribute to statutory assessment and EHCPs and provide detailed specialist reports.

Early intervention is key to the best chance for the development of communication and functional listening in young children. We provide auditory stimulation activities, advice and information to families and early year’s settings. We have a Baby and Toddler Sensory Play Group that meets fortnightly.

The HIS deliver training such as raising awareness of hearing impairment in a variety of settings such as nurseries/pre-schools, schools (including special schools) and further education.

The HIS has two Resource Base provision using a ‘Total Communication' approach, a primary provision, and a secondary provision for children with a severe or profound hearing loss. Placement is through the statutory assessment process.