Consultation carried out by the Local Authority when changing their Advisory Teaching services highlighted that although there was some good practice in joint working between therapists and advisory teachers, there were some incidences of duplication or mixed messages which were confusing to parents and schools or pre-school settings.

A workshop was held earlier in the year to explore this with representation from services, commissioners and parents/carers.

Subgroups have been set up to agree pathways and joint working protocols with the aim of eliminating duplication and establishing consistent joint working.

Different IT and record systems across organisations are proving to be barriers to joint working and need to be overcome.

With all services stretched it is vital clear roles are agreed and good information sharing takes place to eliminate duplication.

There is excellent practice between some practitioners but it is due to them being proactive in building relationships and is not currently supported by systems and processes.

Lessons learned and/or future plans

- Developing pathways with Advisory Education Services
- Building blocks to communication are crucial
- Joint working
- Accessible and equitable service for all families
- Support that makes an impact
- Early identification and intervention is essential

Contact name: Camilla Hutchings
Email: Camilla.hutchings@sompar.nhs.uk
Service: Integrated Therapy Service (ITS)

Supporting Educational Settings to meet children’s needs

Evidence of impact

- An SLT post to support children with needs for high-tech AAC needs has been funded by the Local Authority so there is now a local pathway for these few very high needs children and young people
- Parents and carers and where appropriate young people will be part of each working group so that the child and family will be kept at the centre of what we do and the pathways will be co-produced
- Impact will be measured by getting feedback from parents and schools/preschools once changes are put in place

Integrated Therapy Service part of Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust