In the summer of 2018 Millie joined our team. Once she had passed the appropriate assessments she started work as a therapy dog. Millie assists children through interactive tasks by initially giving them something to talk about. She can help relax, motivate, build confidence and encourage children to communicate.

Lessons learned and/or future plans
Whilst Millie was initially used to work with a small number of children on the preschool complex needs caseload, she has proved to be an asset with a variety of children, particularly those who are reluctant to attend or to engage in sessions. The therapy sessions are tiring for Millie and so it is important not to over-work her. Millie has also had a positive effect on the well being of colleagues, everyone loves a cuddle with her when she is in the office!

Evidence of impact
“Zach can get frustrated at times and it was good for him to learn to wait for Millie to follow his commands. We talk about Millie a lot at home and when he is due to see her he is excited. We say we are going to play with Millie rather than going to another hospital appointment.”

“It definitely has benefited and motivated him. It was a great motivator for his speech and language and he was in control. Interaction can be tricky for Zach because he relies on adult input. But with Millie he didn’t need a lot from us and he can take control. It’s nice to have something real to focus on and he loves taking her for walk.”