The SLT service is embedded within the South Glos and Bristol youth offending teams (YOTs) and Vinney Green secure unit. Therapists aim to screen the majority of young people (YP) who come through the services with a view to providing a communication profile which can be used in their care and inform legal processes.

A significant number of YP have been identified by this process as having SLCN which had not been identified previously.

Clinicians have raised the awareness of SLCN within the Youth Justice System by training YOT workers, Police, Care workers, Community Panel volunteers and appropriate adults.

Providing drop in screenings as some young people find specific appointments difficult to attend.

Further training planned for magistrates and solicitors.

Health teams in YOT and Vinney Green hope to provide group interventions.

Service was selected by NHS health and Justice as an example of exceptional practice in SW England. Information from this service will form basis of report which informs new commissioning arrangements for health and justice contracts.

70% of YP in YOT found to have severe to moderate language difficulties. 2/3rds of these previously not identified.

Identification of SLCN in YOT

YOT workers routinely provide verbal and written feedback on quality and usefulness of the screening assessment and the strategies provided, which is without exception been positive. Training is evaluated by obtaining both qualitative and quantitative data. Participants are asked to score themselves on a rating scale at the beginning and end of training and their progress against the objectives is measured. Evaluations are showing that participants are consistently showing gains in their confidence around understanding, identifying and meeting CLCN following the training and more importantly identifying in an action plan strategies they will use in their practice.

YP are given opportunity to provide feedback and when they have done so comments are positive.