

Profile of Children and Young people accessing Paediatric Speech and Language Therapy services -September 2014

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Harrow's Overall Population

The 2011 National Census indicates that Harrow's population is one of the most diverse nationally, with 69.1% of residents coming from minority ethnic groups, with the largest group being of Indian ethnicity. The borough also has the largest concentration of Sri Lankan Tamils in the UK as well as having the highest density of Gujarati Hindus in the UK. Harrow is also ranked 8th nationally for linguistic diversity in the Greater London Authority's Linguistic Diversity Index. At least 88 different languages are "spoken" in Harrow, including three categories of sign language.

According to the GLA School Role Projection Service, the increased migration into the borough is projected to continue rising over the next few years.

1.2 Philosophy of our Service

The speech and language therapy service at North West London Hospitals NHS Trust provides therapy services to children and young people with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) 0-18 years in a variety of settings working in partnership with colleagues in health, education, social care others and the voluntary sector to promote a comprehensive service to all children and families taking account of cultural and ethnic background.

2.0 Scope of Audit

This audit aims to provide data about the population of children and young people in the London Borough of Harrow who were accessing speech and language therapy service in August 2014. It interrogates some of the most salient data sets for CYP with SLCN e.g. ethnicity, language profile, medical diagnosis, link with poverty/ deprivation indices.

3.0 Findings

On August 1st 2014 the speech and language therapy service at North West London Hospital NHS Trust has an active caseload of 1839 patients which reflects a 13% growth in comparison to 1630 patients reported in August 2013.

3.1. Demographics Results

There are 1839 patients on the active caseload, of these 72% are males and 28% are females.

Patients	SALT Caseload	%
Male	1326	72%
Female	513	28%

The median age of patients is 9 years old. The highest numbers of children are aged 5 years (257 children) and the lowest aged 18 (9 children). Children aged 5-9 make up 42.5% of the caseload with age group 0-4 following second with 36.9%. The remaining 20% include children age 10 to 19.

Age	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19
Number of Patients	680	783	275	101
Percentage	36.9	42.5	14.9	5.4

According to the GLA School Role Projection Service, the 4-10 years old population projections suggest that this group will continue to rise with a projected increase of 22% from 2012 to 2021 which will have an impact on the demand for SLT services.

3.2. Ethnic Group Results

Table one and figure one over leaf contains the ethnic profile of The SLT active caseload by ethnic groups compared to Harrow Census data

- 15.3 per cent (281) of the caseload is White British
- 200 patients are White Other (10.8%) with 23 being White Irish (1.2%). The White Other group has increased from 7.5% to 10.8% of the SLT caseload reflecting the growing number of Eastern Europeans in to the local community particularly Polish and Romanians.
- The Indian group continues to be the largest single minority ethnic group with 208 patients (16.7%) followed by African Blacks/Black British with 146 patients ethnic group (7.9%). A similar pattern to 2013 with the Indian group with 14.3% and African Blacks/Black British with 9.1% as the second largest ethnic group.
- The Other Asian category accounts for 19.1 per cent of our caseloads, which comprises of CYP from a variety of backgrounds such as Sri Lanka.
- 7% of patients did not want to state their ethnicity; this has decreased form 10.5% in 2013.

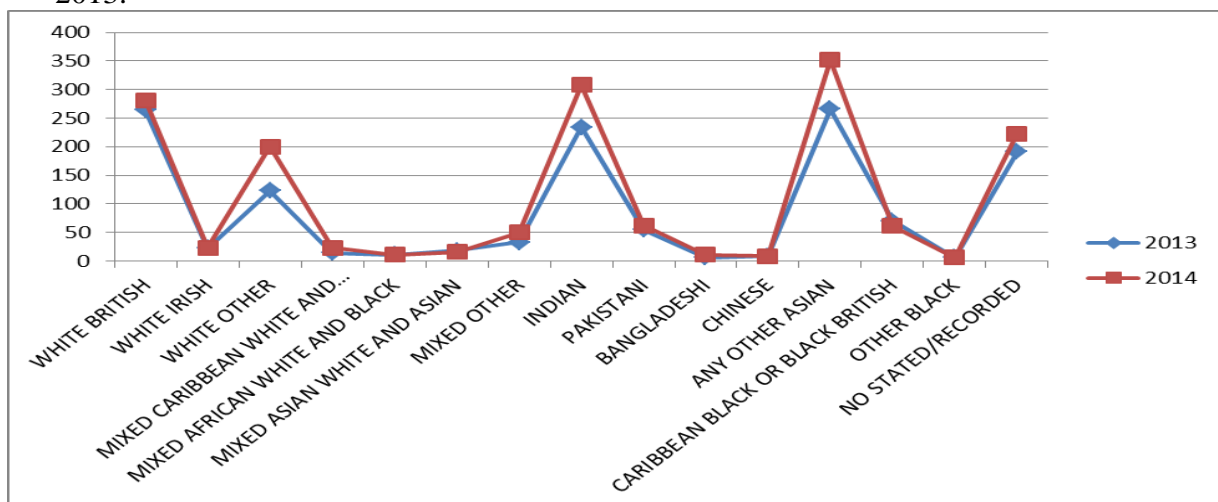


Table 1 – Ethnic Group Results*

Ethnicity	Harrow 2011 Census		NWLH 2013 SALT		NWLH 2014 SALT	
	239,056		1,630		1,839	
	Data	%	Data	%	Data	%
White						
White British	73,826	30.9	264	16.1	281	15.3
White Irish	7,336	3.1	22	1.3	23	1.2
White Other	19,628	8.2	123	7.5	200	10.8
Mixed						
Mixed Caribbean White and Black	2,344	1.0	14	0.8	23	1.2
Mixed African White and Black	1,053	0.4	11	0.6	11	0.6
Mixed White and Asian	3,417	1.4	18	1.1	16	0.8
Mixed Other	2,685	1.1	33	2	50	2.7
Asian or Asian British						
Indian	63,051	26.4	234	14.3	308	16.7
Pakistani	7,797	3.3	55	3.3	62	3.3
Bandagleshi	1,378	0.6	6	0.3	11	0.6
Chinese	2,629	1.1	8	0.4	8	0.4
Other Asian	26,953	11.3	266	16.3	352	19.1
Black or Black British						
African Black or Black British	8,526	3.6	149	9.1	146	7.9
Caribbean Black or Black British	6,812	2.8	70	4.2	61	3.4
Other Black	4,370	1.8	6	0.3	6	0.3
Other Ethnic Category						
Other Ethnic Category	7,050	3	60	3.6	58	3.1
Not Stated / No Ethnicity recorded			191	17.9	223	12.1
*Harrow's Ethnicity data from Census 2011, NWLH 2013 SALT active caseload and NWLH 2014 active caseload						

3.3 Ethnicity by SLT Caseloads

- White Others ethnicity has increased across all caseloads from 2013 to 2014. Alexandra School from 15% to 18%, Chaucer from 15% to 18%, Schools caseload from 10% to 13%, Belmont Health Centre from 4% to 10%, and Preschool Language Unit from none to 12%.
- Diverse representation of ethnic groups continues to be found in our caseloads in special education schools with 35% of White British and 18% of White Others in Alexandra School. Any Other Asian ethnicity followed second highest with 26% in Shaftesbury School, 22% in Alexandra School, 21% in Woodlands School and 19% in Kingsley High School.
- Within Secondary schools other Asian continues to be the highest minority ethnic group with an increase from 20% to 23%. Indian ethnicity decreased from 14% to 10%. White British significantly increased from 11% to 28% as well as Caribbean Black from 2% to 16%.
- Mainstream Primary School SLT caseload is greatly diverse with: 24% Other Asian, 17% Indian, 10% White British, 13% White Other and 12% African Black or Black British.
- Just under 1% accounts for Chinese ethnic group across all caseloads

3.4 Postal Code/Ward Results

There is a high correlation between the numbers of CYP accessing SLT provision with areas of high social deprivation and poverty.

- HA2 which comprises North Harrow, South Harrow and Rayners Lane (part) in addition to areas of deprivation has also got the second highest number of children aged 5-7 in the borough according to the 2011 Census. This is reflected in the numbers of children accessing Speech and language therapy with 21% of the total caseload living in this area. (311 School age children cases equivalent to 30% of the schools case load and 162 Pre-schooler's which makes up 21% of the pre-school caseload.
- HA3 which comprises Harrow Weald, Kenton, Wealdstone, Queensbury and part of Belmont is the smallest ward in Harrow but the most densely populated and has the highest population of children aged 0-4. CYP living in this area accessing SLT services account for 23% (177) of preschool cases and 20% of Schools caseloads
- HA2 and HA3 combined are 47% (865 cases) of both caseloads, Preschool and Schools.
- The increase in social housing and young families living in HA7 and HA1 are reflected in the increasing demand for SLT services. HA7 which comprises mainly Stanmore and Queensbury with 281 CYP living in this area accessing SLT services. Similarly HA1 which comprises Harrow on the Hill, North Harrow and Northwick Park has 300 CYP accessing SLT.

Figure 2- Postcode data on active SLT caseloads August 14

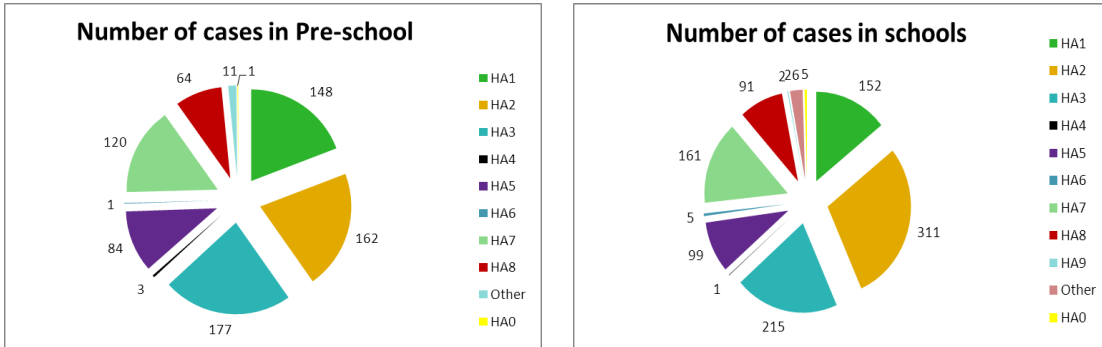
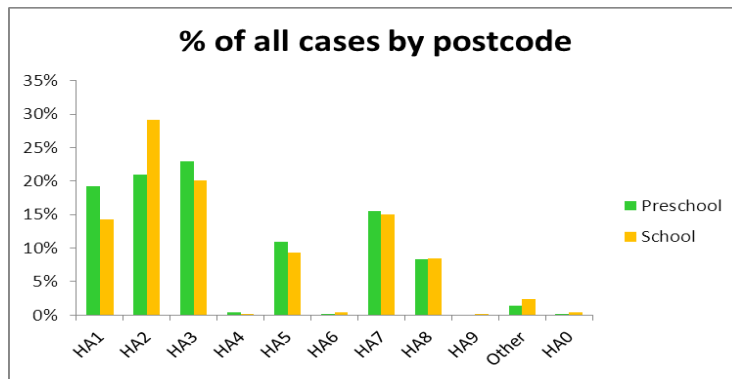
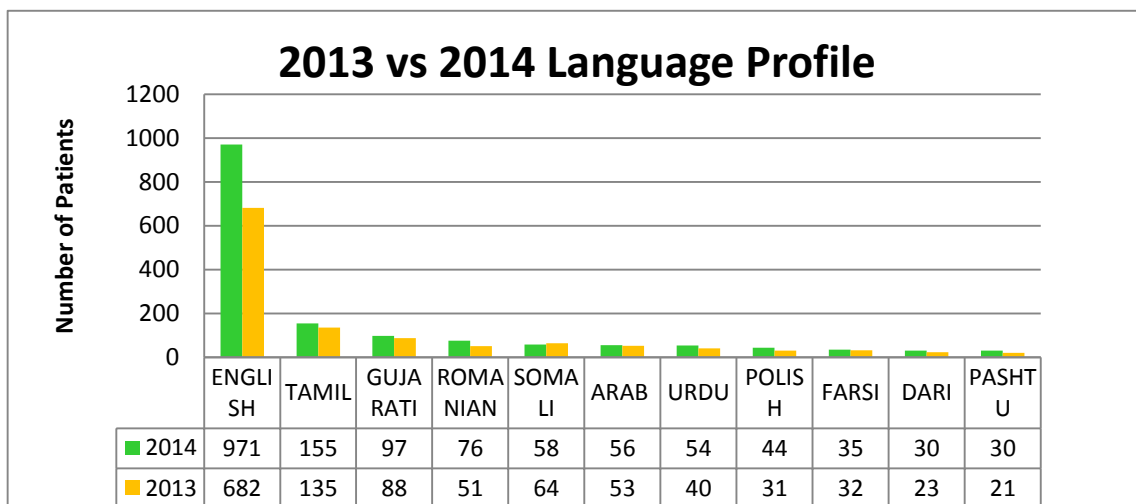


Figure 3- Postcode data from total SALT active caseload August 2014 by %



3.5 Languages spoken by CYP accessing SLT services August 2014



The Table above shows the top 11 foreign languages spoken by CYP as their home language on the SLT caseload in 2013 vs 2014.

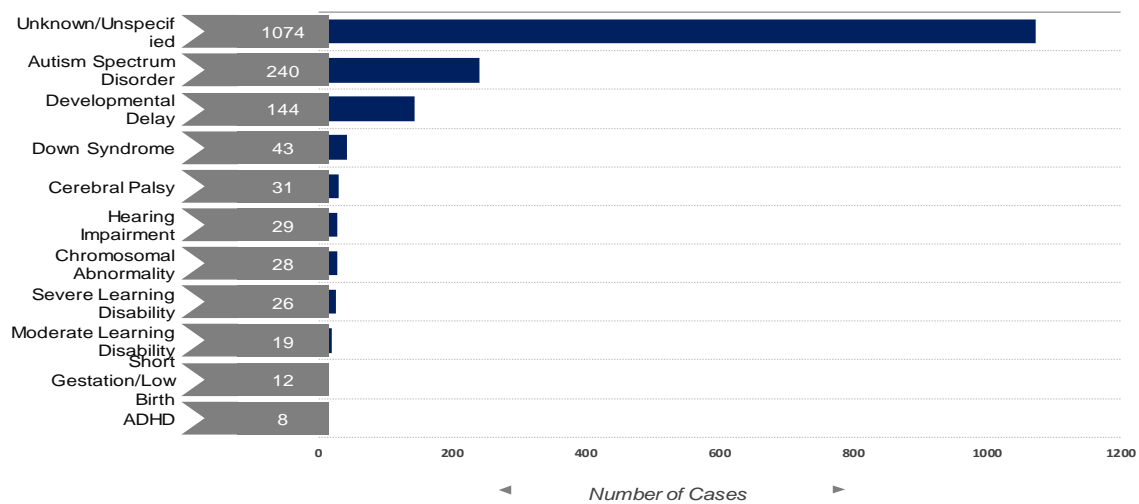
- English is the most widely spoken language with 971 speakers (53%), a very similar percentage in 2013 with 682 speakers (56%).
- 868 (47%) CYP speak a foreign language other than English a slightly increased number compared to 2013 figures 538 (41%).
- Tamil continues to be the most commonly spoken foreign language in our caseloads with 155 (8.4%) patients. This continues to be an overrepresentation when compared to Harrow's total population where 3.6% are Tamil speakers.
- Gujarati continues to be the 2nd main language with 97 (5.2%) speaking this language as their home language. A consistent figure as in 2013 was 5.3%
- Romanian is the third main language with 76 (4.1%) native speakers, which is reflective of the growing demand from this group with 25 additional cases.
- Somali is our fourth main language with 58 (3.1%) native speakers and the same pattern as in 2013 is observed with an overrepresentation when compared to Harrow population of 0.8%.
- Arabic follows 5th with 56 (3%) speakers.
- The following languages are also widely spoken as primary language: Urdu, Polish, Farsi, Dari, and Pashto, similar to the 2013 results.
- Other languages spoken in low percentages are: Hindi, Bengali, British Sign language, Portuguese, Russian, Albanian, Punjabi, French etc.
- In the preschool caseload, English is the most widely spoken language with 452 speakers, followed by Tamil with 42 cases, Romanian 39, Gujarati 33, Urdu 23 and Somali 20 cases.
- The schools caseload presents with a different make up of languages with English as the highest number of cases 519, followed by Tamil 113, Gujarati 64, Arabic 42, Somali 38, Romanian 37, Urdu 31, Farsi 29 and Polish 28 cases.
- Tamil speakers are in higher concentration in the school's caseload
- Romanians are almost equally represented in both caseloads with 39 cases in the preschool team and 37 cases in the school's team.

3.6 Comorbidities and Medical Diagnosis

- 1074 (59%) patients have a diagnosis of unknown/unspecified, which is reflective of a 15% growth in comparison with 936 patients reported in August 2013. "Unknown/Unspecified" means that there is not an apparent etiology or cause for the speech and language communication need the patient presents with.
- The three most common medical diagnoses continue to be Autism Spectrum Disorder with 240 CYP (13.5%), Developmental Delay is second with 144 (7%) CYP and Down Syndrome is third with 43(2%) CYP.
- Other diagnosis in medium frequency (i.e. minimum 15 cases max 40 cases) amount 164 (9%) CYP accessing services. These include CYP with cerebral palsy, hearing impairment, chromosomal abnormality, severe learning disability and moderate learning disability.

- Low frequency diagnosis (i.e. minimum one case max 14 cases) amount 205 (11%) CYP including; abnormal brain scan, attention deficit disorder, short gestational low birth, syndromes, cleft palate, congenital abnormality, etc.
- In the SLT Preschool caseload the highest medical diagnosis is Developmental Delay with 67 (9%) cases. In the SLT School caseload the highest medical diagnosis is Autism Spectrum Disorder with 218 (20%) cases.

Figure 4- shows the distributed of cases by medical diagnosis in our caseload.



3.6.1. Medical diagnosis ASD vs Ethnicity

According to the “Ethnic disproportionality in the identification of speech and language and communication needs (SLCN) and autism spectrum disorders (ASD): 2005 – 2011 position paper from the Better Communication Project, “for ASD, only the Black Other and Black Caribbean groups are over-represented. The predominant picture is under-representation of Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, and Other Asian pupils.”

The SLT caseload ASD vs Ethnicity results indicate that the Any Other Asian, Indian Pakistani and Bangladeshi groups are not under-represented when compared to White British. These groups amount 94 cases which is 39% of the ASD caseload. In addition, the Black Other and Black Caribbean groups are not over-represented in our SLT caseload with only 27 cases in total which is 11% of the ASD caseload.

We have raised awareness of ASD among Asian communities and access by ethnic minority groups specifically in Early Years, when diagnosis may first occur, via liaison with Portage Service and Harrow Early Bird programme. Some training sessions have

been provided in minority languages and the use of interpreters during discussion of diagnosis in liaison with Consultant Paediatricians has been encouraged.

ETHNIC GROUP	ASD CASES
White British	51
Any Other Asian	50
Indian	37
White Other	22
African Black	17
Any Other Ethnic Category	10
Caribbean Black	9
Mixed Other	9
Non Stated	6
None	4
Pakistani	4
Bangladeshi	3
Mixed Caribbean White	3
White Irish	3
Chinese	2
Mixed Asian White	8
Mixed African White	1
Other Black	1

3.7 Speech and Language Therapy- Service Specific Diagnosis

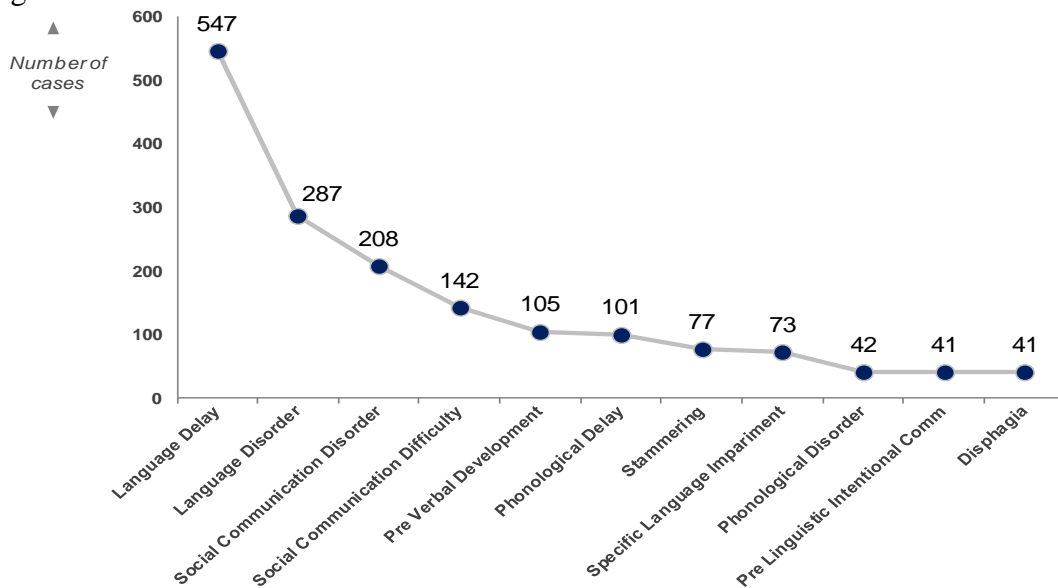
Figure 5 shows the number of cases distributed by SLT /service specific diagnosis

- 547 patients have a diagnosis of Language Delay (11% increase on last year).
- Language Disorder continues to be the second highest service specific diagnosis with 287 patients
- Social Communication Disorder/ASD continues to be third with 208 patients.
- Dysphagia and Pre-linguistic Intentional Communication share the same number of patients with 41 in each diagnosis
- Phonological Disorder has slightly increases with 42 patients.
- Stammering has maintained a similar number of patients from 72 in 2013 to 77 in 2014.
- There is only 1 patient with Cleft Palate and 1 with Abnormal Auditory Perception in our caseload
- Other service specific diagnosis include: Phonetic/ Articulation Disorder and AAC Communication Aid/Gestural/Symbol System.

Some specific SLT diagnoses have notably increased from 2013 to 2014 which is reflective of the changing complexity of the CYP accessing services:

- Preverbal Development as a diagnosis has increased from 76 CYP in 2013 to 105 CYP in 2014; this is a 28% increase and links to the high demands for special school places in the Borough.
- Specific Language Impairment amounts to 73 CYP in 2014 in comparison to 54 CYP in 2013; this is a 35% increase. CYP with SLI often require significant involvement and direct interventions from SLT's.

Figure 5.



4.0 Summary of Key Findings

- ✓ There is a 13% growth in the number of CYP accessing SLT services in the borough over the academic year 2013/14 . Demand continues to remain high for all areas of the service.
- ✓ Children aged 5-9 make up 42.5% of the SLT caseload. According to the GLA School Role Projection Service, the 4-10 years old population projections suggest that this group will continue to rise with a projected increase of 22% from 2012 to 2021.
- ✓ The SLT caseload data continues to reflect represent Harrow's ethnic profile including the increase of migration into the borough for example, the White Other group has increased from 7.5% (2013) to 10.8% (2014). This is reflective of the growing number of Eastern Europeans in Harrow.

- ✓ Tamil is Harrow's 2nd main foreign language with over 8,300 residents speaking this language as their main language. Tamil continues to be the most commonly spoken foreign language in our caseloads. This continues to be overrepresented as a % of the SLT caseload.
- ✓ Harrow has over 20,300 residents speaking Gujarati as their main language, this is the most commonly spoken foreign language in Harrow and ranks Harrow 2nd nationally and 1st in London (Census 2011). Gujarati continues to be the 2nd highest home language.
- ✓ Romanian is now our third main language. In 2013 Somali was our third highest figure for foreign languages.
- ✓ The SLT caseload ASD vs Ethnicity results have provided a platform of data that has aided in monitoring ethnic disproportionality in the identification of SLCN and ASD as advised by the Better Communication Research Project 2012/2013. The Any Other Asian, Indian Pakistani and Bangladeshi groups are not under-represented when compared to White British (the predominant picture is underrepresentation of these groups). The Black Other and Black Caribbean groups are not over-represented.
- ✓ The top twelve languages spoken in Harrow (Census 2011) in order of higher percentages are: Gujarati, Tamil, Romanian, Polish, Persian/Farsi, Arabic, Urdu, Somali, Hindi, Punjabi, Nepalese and Pashto. Our service reflects Harrow's demographics and language profile comprehensively and accurately as our top 11 languages are in agreement with the Census information: Tamil, Gujarati, Romanian, Somali, Arabic, Urdu, Polish, Farsi, Dari and Pashto.
- ✓ The amount of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder continues to be the highest medical diagnosis.
- ✓ A few specific SLT diagnoses have notably increased from 2013 to 2014 such Specific Language Impairment with is a 35% increase and Preverbal Development with a 28% increase.

Areas for development / discussion –

1. The high demand for SLT services is reflective of the growing and more diverse population within Harrow. The increasing complexity of speech language and communication difficulties in the absence of any additional resources continues to challenge the service. While the service operates a universal, targeted and specialist model of provision there is a need to review how the broader system (i.e. in schools

and pre-schools settings support the universal and targeted model. This is on the agenda with commissioners.

2. There is a need to engage Public Health services particularly in relation to areas of social deprivation and low-birth babies.
3. SLT services will work with local children's centres and the knowledge hub at Glebe School to build resources and information regarding the linguistic and cultural background of CYP from Romania and Poland.
4. Further work with Community paediatrics to classify CYP with disability should lead to more reliable diagnostic data sets.

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