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NHS
Rochdale Care Organisation
Northern Care Alliance
NHS Foundation Trust

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HMR Child Speech and Language Therapy
Callaghan House
Cross Street
Off Green Lane
Heywood
OL10 2DY

Tel: 0161 206 0606
Fax: 0207 019 7419

Dear Parent/Carer,

The Children's Speech and Language Therapy Service is introducing **The Balanced System Framework**. This is a new approach to delivering Speech and Language Therapy support in schools.

We are sharing this information for you to understand:

- how the system works
- how schools can access support for children and young people
- how information may be shared between schools and the NHS to help identify and meet children's communication needs.

Speech, language and communication skills are essential for learning, wellbeing, building relationships and participating in everyday life. Through The Balanced System Framework, schools have direct access to Speech and Language Therapy support from their NHS Link Therapist. This means schools can access advice, consultation and support when needed, without waiting lists or delays.

If there are concerns about your child's speech, language or communication skills, these may be identified by school staff and/or parents or carers. The school's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator (SENDCO) will discuss any concerns with you and may liaise with the school's Link Therapist. Following these discussions, the following may be offered: advice, consultation, observation, assessment and/or intervention may be recommended. The school and the Link Therapist will then work together to support your child's identified needs.

To help ensure that children receive the right support at the right time, relevant information may be shared between the school and the Children's Speech and Language Therapy Service. This may include information about your child's speech, language, communication and educational needs. Please be assured that any information shared is managed securely,

confidentially and in accordance with data protection legislation and NHS information governance requirements.

If you do not wish your child's information to be shared with the Children's Speech and Language Therapy Service, you have the right to opt out. Should you wish to do so, please notify your school's SENDCO in writing.

If you have any questions about the Balanced System Framework or the support available, please contact your school's SENDCO.

Yours sincerely,

Children's Speech and Language Therapy Service
Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust