**Early Years and Community Physiotherapy & Occupational Therapy Service**

Our teams of Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists, Therapy Assistants, technicians and administrators are based at Ryegate Children’s Centre and in four Special Schools across the city.

We work with children and young people from 0-19 with a range of neurodevelopmental conditions including Developmental Coordination Disorder, Cerebral Palsy, syndromes, developmental delay and neuromuscular conditions.

Children and young people are seen at Ryegate for their initial assessment, which usually involves a discussion with the child and their family about their concerns and their goals and an assessment of the child’s skills and abilities. Intervention is planned around the agreed goals with the aim of promoting and facilitating the child’s full participation in family and nursery/school life. This may take place at Ryegate, home, school or in the child’s local leisure facilities.

New referrals to the service are accepted for children and young people up to the age of 16 from GPs, consultants and allied health professionals. Once a child has been known to the service, both parents and schools can re-refer their child for further intervention, if there are new goals which were previously unaddressed.

Our teams work closely with mainstream schools and nurseries, working with children in school, offering advice and recommendations regarding a specific child, and providing training for whole schools. We run courses at Ryegate for education staff in relation to motor skills, handwriting and sensory issues.

Where a young person continues to be known to our service into their teens and will need on-going therapy beyond 16, we start the transition process with them at 14 (where appropriate). If the young person is staying in special school, their care will remain with the special school therapy team until the point of leaving school. Where a young person goes to sixth form or college from a special school, we use the transition process and transfer them to adult services when they are ready. That is often not until 18.

You can find out more about our service by following the link to our website <http://www.sheffieldchildrens.nhs.uk/our-services/physio-and-ot/>