



## 8.1 How health services are delivered

The National Health Service (NHS) is a complex system made up of a wide range of over 2000 different organisations with different roles, responsibilities and specialities. It can help to understand how health services operate in South Gloucestershire to access the right support for children and young people (CYP)

The information below explains how health services are commissioned and delivered for South Gloucestershire.

### How health services are delivered

NHS health services are divided into primary care, secondary care, and tertiary care. Primary care is often the first point of contact for people in need of healthcare, and may be provided by professionals such as GPs, dentists and pharmacists.

Secondary care, which is sometimes referred to as 'hospital and community care', can either be planned (elective) care such as a cataract operation or urgent or be emergency care such as treatment for a fracture.

Tertiary care refers to highly specialised treatments such as neurosurgery, transplants and secure forensic mental health services.

Health services can also be divided into:

- Universal health services
- Targeted health services

### Universal health services

These are open to everyone, such as:

- GPs (doctors)
- dentists
- pharmacists
- optometrists
- hospitals

The NHS website has a search function for you to [find your local GP Services](#).

### Targeted health services

These are services where you need to have a significant level of need and meet certain criteria to access them. They include:

- community paediatricians
- occupational therapists

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- physiotherapists
- speech and language therapists
- hospital treatment teams
- mental health practitioners

## 9.2 How health services are commissioned

Health services in England are commissioned by clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) and NHS England on a local, regional and national basis.

### a. Clinical commissioning groups

Every area in England has a Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) which brings together experienced healthcare professionals to decide what services are needed in the local area and ensure that they are provided.

In South Gloucestershire, the CCG operates across Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire and is known as the [NHS BNSSG Clinical Commissioning Group](#) or more often BNSSG CCG.

Bristol, Somerset and South Gloucestershire CCG is responsible for commissioning a wide range of local child and adult healthcare services for the population of South Gloucestershire. These services are provided by a variety of organisations, such as local NHS hospital trusts and community health service providers.

The services commissioned by CCG include:

- urgent and emergency care, such as NHS 111, A&E and ambulance services
- planned (elective) hospital care, such as operations and treatments
- general practice (GP)
- community health services, such as community nursing and physiotherapy
- rehabilitation for those recovering from operations and certain conditions
- maternity and new-born services (excluding neonatal intensive care)
- infertility services
- children and young people's health services
- mental health services
- continuing health care for people with more complex on-going health needs

You can find out more about the [responsibilities of clinical commissioning groups](#) on the NHS England website.

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### **Community Children's Health Services**

Our main community children and young people's health provider is Sirona Health & Care. They are commissioned to provide a wide range of community health services including:

- Community Paediatricians
- Children's Therapists
- Health Visitors
- School Health Nurses
- Children's Mental Health Team
- a range of more specialised children's mental health services and services for children with disabilities.

For more information about what's available and how to refer follow this link:

[Community Children's Health Partnership \(cchp.nhs.uk\)](http://cchp.nhs.uk)

### **Bristol Royal Hospital for Children**

The Bristol Royal Hospital for Children (BRHC) provides a local service for children and a referral service for specialist care for families across the South West and nationally. It was the first purpose-built children's hospital in the South West and has centralised all hospital services for children at one centre of excellence.

BHRC provides:

- Accident & emergency services
- Child & adolescent services
- Genetics
- Major trauma
- Paediatric intensive care

For further details follow [this link](#).

### **NHS England**

NHS England commissions:

- Primary care services e.g. GPs, dentists and opticians although many for many GP's this function is delegated to the CCG
- Specialised services such as treatments for rare conditions and secure mental health care
- Military and veteran health services
- Health services for people in prisons including youth offender institutions
- Some public health services are also directly commissioned by NHS England.

See the [NHS England website](#) for more details.

## 9.3 Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)

### a. The CCG:

- commissions services jointly with the local authority for children and young people up to age 25 with SEND, including those with Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs)
- works with the local authority to contribute to the Local Offer of services available for children and young people with SEND
- ensures that health providers inform parents and the appropriate local authority where they think that a young child under compulsory school age has, or probably has, SEN and/or a disability
- has mechanisms in place to ensure practitioners and clinicians will support the integrated EHC needs assessment process
- agrees personal health budgets where they can be provided for those with EHC plans

Joint commissioning arrangements for securing education, health and care provision which will include arrangements for:

- securing EHC needs assessments
- securing the provision specified in EHC plans
- agreeing personal budgets

Most CYP with special educational needs will not have an EHC plan but will have been identified as needing SEN support and the CCG ensures that there are processes in place to identify, understand and meet the health needs of all these children and young people.

The SEND Local Offer provides comprehensive range of information to help and support families with a child up to the age of 25 years who has a special educational need and/or disability. Follow this link:

[SEND Local Offer | South Gloucestershire \(southglos.gov.uk\)](https://www.southglos.gov.uk/SEND-Local-Offer)

### b. Designated Clinical Officer

In South Gloucestershire, we have a Designated Clinical Officer (DCO) who plays a key part supporting joined-up working between health services and local authorities.

The DCO works closely with the Local Authority (LA) and assists the CCG in meeting its responsibilities around SEND as well as providing a point of contact for LA's, schools and colleges who need advice or support about health for children and young people who have special education needs and disabilities (SEND).

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The DCO:

- provides advice to education settings about their duties under the Department of Education's (2014) Supporting Pupils At School With Medical Conditions guidance
- liaises with child and adult health services about specific children and young people
- attends the weekly LA SEND panels to review advice and provide information about health
- participates in EHC plan quality assurance exercises and feedback to health colleagues
- provides support and training to health colleagues about SEND
- attends annual reviews for children and young people with complex health needs
- helps identify children and young people who may require referral to Children's Continuing Care (CCC) or adult Continuing Health Care (CHC) services
- works with partners in cases that need mediation services to resolve disputes outside of tribunals
- reviews and provide evidence for First Tier Tribunal cases where there is a health element for determination
- works closely with parent carer forums and other support or voluntary organisations
- participates in SEND Local Area Inspections
- works with the LA to look at personal health budgets (PHB's) for those who have asked for a personal budget and who meet the children's Continuing Care (CCC) criteria or adult Continuing Health Care criteria (CHC)

Contact the Designated Clinical Officer

Liz Jarvis is currently the Designated Clinical Officer for the NHS Bristol North Somerset South Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group. She can be contacted by email at: [liz.jarvis1@nhs.net](mailto:liz.jarvis1@nhs.net)

### **c. Children with more complex health needs**

Children and young people with complex health needs may also be eligible for ongoing support, called NHS Continuing Care which considers their physical, emotional and intellectual development as they move towards adulthood.

If a child is eligible for NHS Continuing Care, it is likely that a range of organisations will be involved, such as health, education and local authority children's services. These different agencies will contribute to a child's care package.

If you think a child should be assessed for NHS continuing care, talk to a health or social care professional who works with them and if they think they are likely to be eligible they will refer them.

A child's needs are assessed against agreed criteria as detailed in the 2016 National Framework for Children and Young People's Continuing Care. The Nurse Assessor

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leading the assessment will work closely with the family and other health and social care professionals who work with the child or young person.

For more information please follow this link:

[Children's continuing care leaflet | NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire CCG \(bnsgccg.nhs.uk\)](https://www.bnsgccg.nhs.uk/childrens-continuing-care-leaflet)