



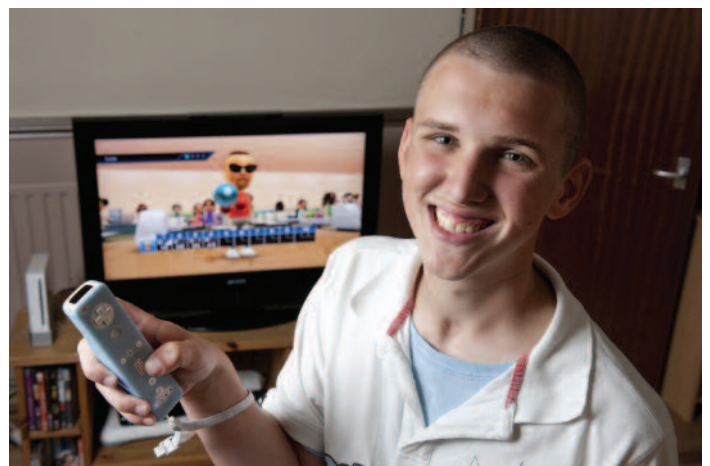
**The Children's Trust
Tadworth**
For children with multiple disabilities

Community Support Team (CST)

Supporting children and young people with acquired brain injury

The CST helps brain injured children and young people overcome the specific challenges they face around cognition, communication and behaviour and gives them the best opportunity to succeed in school.

The CST supports the network around a child or young person (the family, siblings and teaching staff) and helps them understand the deficits associated with brain injury and how to manage these in real life settings. Using appropriate coping and learning strategies, they become empowered to help maximise the child's or young person's full potential and therefore his or her chances of success.



“ Our ongoing collaboration with The Children's Trust is integral to our efforts to achieve best outcomes for these children ”

Dr Amos Burke
Consultant Paediatric Oncologist

“ The Children's Trust's input has been invaluable in getting Liam back to school and helping him, his family and the network around him to understand his brain injury ”

Dr Frances Gibbon
Consultant Paediatric Neurologist

Community Support Team (CST)

Supporting children and young people with acquired brain injury

What does CST provide?

- **Comprehensive inter-professional assessments** delivered by an expert team consisting of a clinical psychologist and therapists all specialising in paediatric brain injury
- **Flexible needs-led support programmes** delivered within the child/young person's own community. Typically these will be provided over a 12 month period with greater or less intensity depending on individually assessed need. Programmes are therapy-led and may include community rehabilitation support for ongoing therapeutic needs

Why is specialist support needed?

The things that come naturally to typically developing children which we take for granted as part of growing up, like learning to get organised for school, completing tasks at school and at home or simply fitting in with a peer group, can present real challenges for a brain injured child or young person.

Day-to-day difficulties might include any of the following areas:

- Learning new information
- Concentration and memory
- Understanding and using language effectively
- Developing independence skills appropriate to their age
- Making and keeping friends
- Staying safe
- Controlling emotions and impulses
- Managing fatigue
- Getting enough sleep

Left unsupported these difficulties can lead to long term issues around academic, social and personal development.

How does CST work?

- Assessments are undertaken at our residential centre and also involve visits to the family home and to school
- Programmes are delivered in the child/young person's home, school and local community
- Collaborative working with the family, school, local services and other agencies is essential

Who can be referred?

- School-aged children living with the medium and long term effects of an acquired brain injury which may be the result of accident or illness *e.g. brain tumour, encephalitis, stroke*
- They are medically stable and independently mobile
- They may have cognitive and communication difficulties
- They may present behavioural issues and have difficulties coping at school
- They may require some level of ongoing therapy support – *although they no longer require intensive daily therapy*

Referrals process

Anyone can refer a child to the service, including clinicians, case managers, GPs, community therapists, teachers and parents. Funding is usually via Primary Care Trusts or insurance companies. Referrals are accepted from across the UK.

For information about the service or to make a referral:

t: **01737 365864**

e: **cst@thechildrenstrust.org.uk**

w: **www.thechildrenstrust.org.uk**