Meet the team:

Speech and Language Therapists


Keli


Nicola


Louise


Deborah

Speech and Language Therapy Assistants


Liz


Jodi

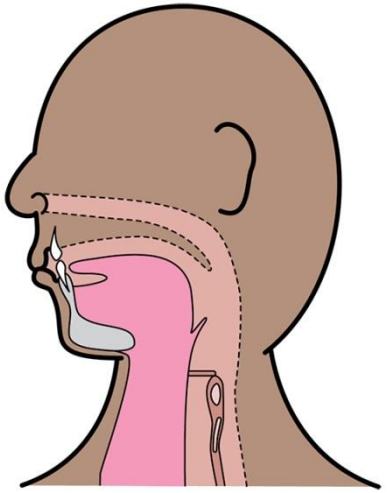
	**Monday-Friday** between 9.00am-5.00pm Please phone the Community Learning Disability Team on 01785 221576 Ask for the clinical coordinator who will talk to you.
out of hours 	Saturday and Sunday or 5.00pm–9.00am Monday to Friday: Please phone your G.P. (doctor) or Social Services out-of-hours on 0345 678 9044
999 	If there is an emergency: If you or another person is very ill or is choking please phone 999 and ask for 'ambulance'. If you or another person is in danger, please phone 999 and ask for 'police'. If there is a fire, please phone 999 ask for 'fire service'.

If you require this information in another language or any other format, please contact Customer Services on 01785 783023 or customer.services@mpft.nhs.uk

Adult Learning Disabilities

NHS
Midlands Partnership University
NHS Foundation Trust

Seeing a Speech and Language Therapist for Dysphagia (swallowing problems)

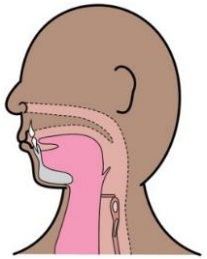


Community Learning Disability Team
St Georges Hospital
Flanagan Centre
Corporation Street
Stafford
Staffordshire
ST16 3AG

Email CLDTStaffs@mpft.nhs.uk

Telephone: 01785 221576

What is Dysphagia?



Dysphagia is a term used to describe eating, drinking and swallowing problems.

Things you might experience:





- Difficulty chewing food
- Difficulty controlling food and drink in the mouth
- Coughing or choking when eating and drinking
- Difficulty swallowing
- Food getting stuck in the throat

Causes of Dysphagia:

Symptoms of Dysphagia can be affected by things like taking certain medications or because you have other health conditions, such as:



Learning Disability	Cerebral Palsy
Down Syndrome	Dementia
Acid Reflux	Syndromes
Parkinson's disease	Stroke
Ageing	COPD

What happens next?

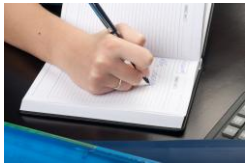
After a Dysphagia referral has been received, a member of our Team will contact either you or your main carer by telephone, to ask questions about your health, your medical history, how you are eating and drinking and what the current concerns are.

The Speech and Language Therapist may then decide to visit you at your home or Day Service to carry out an eating and drinking assessment.

What will happen at the visit?

The Speech and Language Therapist will:

- Watch you eating a meal (or snack) and having a drink and they will make notes about what they see





- Ask if its ok to use a stethoscope on your neck to listen to your swallow

Why is it important to see a Speech and Language Therapist?



So that mealtime advice and practical support can be given to you and your family and carers, to help you with your eating and drinking.