

**Adult Speech and Language Therapy Service - Top Tips For Referring to Our Service**

Referrals are accepted for adults 18 years + (we will see people over 16 years if not in statutory education) where consent has been given for the referral, and the referral criteria is met:

Referral Criteria	Referrals are NOT ACCEPTED WHEN:
<b>Eating, drinking and swallowing difficulties</b> , with food / drink eg; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence of regular coughing, spluttering, gagging or choking during meals</li> <li>Recurrent chest infections / aspiration pneumonia (associated with difficulty with eating and drinking and aspiration is considered a possible cause)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where the difficulties are purely with swallowing tablets *</li> <li>An individual is choosing softer food because of inadequate or missing dentition/personal preference</li> <li>An individual requires assistance with feeding (no evidence of swallowing difficulty) – if feeding equipment is required refer to Occupational Therapy via SPA</li> <li>Poor appetite / weight loss not related to a swallowing difficulty or advice regarding non-oral feeding (eg PEG) or supplements (refer to dietetics)*</li> </ul>
<b>Voice difficulties</b> (eg abnormal pitch, volume or quality for the speaker) NB an ENT examination is normally required prior to SLT referral	
<b>Respiratory Difficulties</b> – chronic cough, vocal cord dysfunction NB referrals only accepted following formal respiratory assessment and diagnosis	
<b>Stammering/ stuttering</b> – a difficulty speaking fluently	
Change in <b>speech clarity</b> (often as a result of a neurological change) e.g. slurred speech	Speech clarity issues as a result of hearing impairment, or developmental speech impairments (e.g. lisp)
Change in <b>language functioning</b> , which are impacting upon functioning in everyday life, eg; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Difficulties understanding spoken language</li> <li>Difficulties using words and sentences</li> </ul> Normally as a result of neurological change (stroke, brain tumour)	Difficulties lie in acquiring English as an additional language, the individual does not have any difficulties in their first language. Developmental difficulties (e.g. autism*, language delay, dyslexia*)
	<b>Learning Disabilities</b> – where this is the cause of the communication or swallowing difficulty.* We would work alongside the ALD team if the difficulty is on top of underlying learning disability (e.g. stroke)
	<b>Mental Health Conditions</b> – where the difficulty is as result of the mental health condition and outside of the expertise of the team for example; unstable mental health difficulties; psychosis; phobias, elective mutism

**\*Signposting / Helpful Links**

Dyslexia [www.bdadyslexia.org.uk](http://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk)

Autism [www.autism.org.uk](http://www.autism.org.uk)

Specialist Autism Team: [lpt.SATReferrals@nhs.net](mailto:lpt.SATReferrals@nhs.net)

Speech and Language therapy service for adults with learning disability [lpt.ldaccess@NHS.net](mailto:lpt.ldaccess@NHS.net)

Dietetics - Leicestershire Nutrition and Dietetic Service – refer via LNDs referral form on PRISM

Hearing Impairment [www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk/aboutus/departments-services/hearing-services/our-services/](http://www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk/aboutus/departments-services/hearing-services/our-services/). **Please the PRISM form for Hearing Services or Tinnitus**

Difficulties Swallowing Medication [www.nhs.uk/conditions/problems-swallowing-pills](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/problems-swallowing-pills)

We are happy to discuss potential referrals by calling us on 0116 295 4692 or emailing [lpt.adultspeech@nhs.net](mailto:lpt.adultspeech@nhs.net)

**To make a referral:**

We prefer GPs to refer via PRISM – Speech and Language Therapy (Adults)

Note: All Health Care Professionals and Care Homes can refer directly without need for GP referral