

**Report to the Meeting of the
Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust**

Board of Directors

14 April 2021

BOD 13/2021
(Agenda item: 2)

Adult Speech & Language Therapy Patient Story

For: Information

Nicole Robinson & Lizzie King will be presenting a recording of a patient story from the Adult Speech & Language Therapy Service (ASLT). Cheryl was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease and received a blend of home visits and digital consultations. Below is a summary of the main interventions.

Dysarthria -NHS evidence gold standard 'LOUD' therapy -Goal focused therapy (reading poems/ preparing for interview)	Dysphagia -Advanced care planning e.g. non-oral feeding -Texture modification advice -Safe swallow strategies	Hypersalivation -Saliva management strategies -Advice of suitable medication to GP
Psychosocial support Adjusting to long term neuro condition	Writing -Adaptive pens -Therapy worksheets -Functional strategies	Signposting Environmental control service, social services, physiotherapy

About the service

ASLT provides assessments, diagnosis, and treatment for adults with acquired voice, speech, communication (dysarthria, dysphonia, aphasia, dysfluency) and/or swallowing difficulty (dysphagia) in the community. Patients are either seen at home, outpatient clinics, community hospitals or at care homes.

ASLT sits in the Community Services Directorate and is commissioned by the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). The service covers Oxfordshire and is split

into three locality teams, South, North & West, City and East. ASLT also have a service level agreement with the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust (OUH), at John Radcliffe Hospital (ENT) for a shared voice pathway to support patients with voice difficulties. ASLT provides remote support to these patients while they are in the hospital and as they are discharged into the community.

About the service users

Below is the referral data for ASLT from the last three financial years:

Date (financial year)	Number of referrals received	Appointments attended	Avg. appointments per episode
2018-19	2769	8009	3.24
2019-20	3086	8275	2.85
2020-21	2590	6966	2.88

The current open caseload for ASLT:

Age (years)	90-100	80-89	70-79	60-69	50-59	40-49	30-39	20-29	18-19	Total
Number	65	132	135	94	64	34	21	16	2	563

Service challenges

ASLT currently have no specific Speech and Language Therapy Professional Leadership. There is a service gap around providing communication support for people with dementia and for people with mental health disorders.

However, there are opportunities for future NHS/Trust recruitment post COVID-19 for careers in NHS including increased student placements and there is consideration of apprenticeships. Ageing Well agenda and Care Home SLT bid which will be leading to improved relationships.