

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPISTS

Role in PUBLIC HEALTH



Health Protection

Working with radiography colleagues during videofluoroscopy clinics we follow safe practice guidance in relation to radiation.

Promoting importance of vaccinations and screening to people with Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN).



Population Healthcare

We raise awareness of SLCN across the health and care system promoting reasonable adjustments including accessible information and inclusive communication environments – this improves access, experience and outcomes.

We train health and care professionals, service users and carers in dysphagia to support with safe and enjoyable eating and drinking across the lifespan. This helps maintain good nutrition, hydration and wellbeing and avoids hospital admissions.

Examples of settings

We work across the life course, in a range of settings. These include:

- Healthcare settings including community health centres, hospital wards and intensive care units and outpatient departments
- Children's settings including children's centres, mainstream and special schools, assessment units, day centres and nursing homes
- And Justice settings including courtrooms, prisons and young offenders' institutions



Wider Determinants

We work to reduce health inequalities by working with children and young people, as well as other groups in society, identifying speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) and providing therapy input. This supports with access to education, healthcare and employment as well as promoting mental wellbeing.



Health Improvement

We Make Every Contact Count (MECC), enabling more informed decision making through accessible and inclusive information to promote physical and mental wellbeing.

We deliver and support access to social prescribing services for people with SLCN.

We enable people to improve their health by supporting and helping individuals to maintain and maximise their speech, language, communication and swallowing abilities when their health conditions compromise them e.g. post stroke, dementia.



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