

## Bradford Speech and Language Therapy Service

### Who are we?

We are a service with over 70 staff members. Our clinical staff comprises of speech and language therapists and speech and language therapy clinical support workers. We have two clinical teams which include our paediatric team and adult team (including ALD team).

**Who do we work with?** Speech and Language Therapists work with people of all ages who have eating or swallowing problems or communication difficulties which may affect listening, understanding, speaking, reading or writing ability. This can be as a result of: developmental delay, learning difficulties, deafness, physical disability, autism, cleft palate, stammering, stroke, head Injury, voice problems, neurological conditions such as Parkinson's disease and cancer of the head and neck. We have specialist staff in our teams to support each of these clinical areas.

**Referrals:** We have an average of between approximately 250 to 400 referrals per month to the service.

**Where do we offer services?** We work across the Bradford District in a variety of both acute and community settings. We also offer domiciliary visits. We provide input into children's centres across the city, nursing homes, day centres, special schools and are rapidly developing our service to commissioned schools.

### What do we do?

#### Patient care

- We assess clients holistically to profile their strengths and development needs
- We provide a differential diagnosis and develop intervention plans alongside service users and their carers
- We provide packages of care in line with locally developed clinical pathways
- We deliver therapy which may be group or individual, tailored to the individual's specific needs, to maintain, optimise or improve swallowing and/or communication
- We are currently developing implementation of the "TOMs" outcomes system to offer ongoing monitoring, assessment and review of service users' progress.
- We advise and offer support to service users and their carers throughout their care and on discharge
- We work as part of multidisciplinary teams and work closely with other agencies
- We work closely with bilingual staff and interpreters to ensure equal access to information and that care is provided in community languages

#### Other Areas

- We offer training to team members, students, volunteers, other NHS professionals, Education partners, parents and carers.
- We offer supervision, peer support, learning and development opportunities
- We engage in quality assurance and are an audit-active service
- We engage in research and development
- We participate in service-user engagement
- We engage in health promotion opportunities/prevention work