

# Speech and Language Therapy

If you are finding it difficult to talk or swallow because of your illness, our Speech and Language Therapist is on hand to help. They can support you to improve your communication, eating, drinking, and support decision-making.

## Speech and Language Therapy can help with:

- Assessing any swallowing difficulties or changes in speech or language
- Diagnosing any problems and providing personalised support to help with management
- Providing advice, rehabilitation and suggested changes to food or drink
- Technology to help communication
- Expertise in planning for the future with communication aids

#### **Criteria for referral**

We can only accept patients who have an advanced, progressive and lifelimiting illness, living in the boroughs of City and Hackney, Tower Hamlets and Newham. Patients from other boroughs can only access these services if they are receiving inpatient care at the Hospice.

We will assess whether the needs of the patient are best met by the specialist palliative care therapy team at the Hospice or by existing community services.

Our Speech and Language Therapists are here two days a week and are available for inpatients and outpatients and the occasional home visit.

#### How to refer

Referrals are made internally but please speak to the healthcare professional in charge of your care if you feel this service could help you. To find out more about these services call the First Contact Team on 0300 30 30 400. Founded in 1905 by the Sisters of Charity, St Joseph's Hospice is one of the oldest and largest hospices in the UK, supporting a population of around 2.1 million people in our core boroughs of City and Hackney, Tower Hamlets, Newham and the surrounding areas.

We are dedicated to providing free of charge, high quality, specialist palliative care and support to people in our community nearing the end of their lives. We take a holistic approach to care, looking after the well-being of the whole person, as well as supporting their loved ones.

#### Our range of services includes:

- Inpatient care
- · Palliative care at home
- · Community and day services
- · Therapies
- · Counselling and advice

### For 24 hour advice and support call First Contact on 0300 30 30 400.

St Joseph's Hospice is committed to celebrating and promoting diversity and inclusion. If English is not your first language, please let us know so that we can arrange an interpreter.

All of our leaflets are available in multiple languages on our website **stjh.org.uk** 

Feedback helps us improve our services. While receiving our care, patients and family will be offered the opportunity to provide feedback. Or you can tell us how we are doing at **iwantgreatcare.org** 

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St Joseph's Hospice Serving East London and the City