



Shropshire Community Health

NHS Trust

Services for Children and Young People with Cleft Palate



Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin
Allied Health Professions





The slides below provide an overview to clinical staff, local authorities, parent & carer groups, third sector and voluntary organisations, schools, nurseries and parent & carers of current support, signposting, services and treatment available to children (CWS) and young people (YPWS) with cleft palate / velopharyngeal incompetency across Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin.

The information has been grouped together using the iThrive model, to help provide a clear detail depending on the level of support or treatment the child or young person may need to access.





PREVENTION AND PROMOTION: Skilling up staff, parents, carers, children and young people



Getting Advice

The Cleft Lip and Palate Association (CLAPA) is a charity which supports people born with a cleft and their families in the UK.

CLAPA helps to connect families and provide information to support them throughout their cleft journey.

[Cleft Lip & Palate Association \(clapa.com\)](http://clapa.com)

[Cleft Lip and Palate - Emotional impact and support \(healthtalk.org\)](http://healthtalk.org)

Contact with trained parents or parent support groups.





GETTING ADVICE:

Universal: Signposting, self-management, or ongoing support



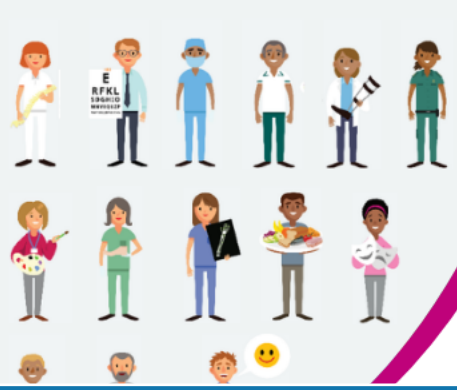
Getting Advice

Babies who are born with a cleft palate in Shropshire receive early support from the **West Midlands Cleft Lip and Palate Team** based at Birmingham Children's Hospital (BCH). The Cleft Team is made up of feeding nurses, surgeons, audiologists, speech therapists, orthodontists and psychologists.

[Birmingham Children's Hospital Cleft Lip and Palate Service | Birmingham Women's and Children's \(bwc.nhs.uk\)](http://bwc.nhs.uk)

Following the baby's operations, a referral will also be made to the local '**Cleft Link**' therapists in Shropshire. We liaise closely with the Cleft Team at Birmingham Children's Hospital so that we can offer timely intervention and advice. Our Shropshire Cleft Team information and advice leaflets can be found here:

[Cleft, lip and palate \(shropscommunityhealth.nhs.uk\)](http://shropscommunityhealth.nhs.uk)



GETTING HELP:

Targeted Support: Goal focused, evidence-based and outcome focused interventions



Getting Help

Shropshire Community Health Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) Services to Children and Young People with cleft palate.

- Telephone contact with link therapist upon referral to explain our role / signpost to babble play videos.
- 18 month assessment at home with advice to parents and feedback to Cleft Team at BCH.
- Monitoring (face to face appointments at home or in nursery) to track progress with development of speech sounds.
- Feedback to Cleft Team at BCH prior to multi-disciplinary appointments (age 2,3 and 5 years).
- Coaching for parents and teachers in the use of multi-sensory inputting techniques for children who have cleft type speech characteristics
- Training workshop for school staff to share how to support children with cleft palate.



GETTING MORE HELP: Specialist Support/Extensive treatment



Getting More Help

- Children who are struggling to produce and use a range of speech sounds will be offered more **intensive diagnostic therapy**. Articulation therapy, working on placement for sounds and oral air flow, will help to inform The Cleft Team at BCH whether therapy alone can bring about changes or whether further surgery is required.
- Therapy may take place at home, in clinic or in school using evidence-based programs and resources from **Speech@Home – Parent Led Articulation Therapy for Children with Cleft Palate (speechathome.org)**. The key to making progress, is for the child, their parents and teachers to feel well informed and to play an active part in the therapy process.

Some children present with cleft type speech characteristics but have not been identified as having a cleft palate. These children can be referred internally to **Shropshire Speech and Language Therapy Service's Nasality Service**. An assessment with a cleft links therapist will be arranged. Advice and / or diagnostic therapy will be offered with referral on to the Palate Investigation Clinic at Birmingham Children's Hospital if required.



GETTING RISK SUPPORT: Acute: Risk management and crisis support

Clinical Psychology and the Cleft Lip and Palate Team at BCH
Information leaflet:
[download.cfm \(bwc.nhs.uk\)](https://www.bwc.nhs.uk/download.cfm)

Need to talk? Peer and parent support:
[Cleft Lip & Palate Association \(clapa.com\)](https://www.clapa.com)

Coping with the emotional impact of a visual difference:
<https://www.changingfaces.org.uk/>



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