



NATIONAL ORTHOPAEDIC ALLIANCE

As a founding member organisation of the National Orthopaedic Alliance (NOA), ROH is part of a network of orthopaedic providers working to shape the future of orthopaedics. The NOA is multidisciplinary and leads on collaboration across all orthopaedic services by providing opportunities for members to share experiences and address shared challenges with an aim of delivering consistent, high-quality care for patients nationwide.

Over the last year we contributed to much of the NOA's work. From sharing wellbeing best practice and helping to launch the Orthopaedic Quality Improvement and Clinical Audit Network (OQICAN) to leading sessions at the alliance's first ever Annual Members' Conference and presenting on COVID-19 orthopaedic recovery webinars, we played a key role in the alliance's success and look forward to continuing to contribute to this work in 2022.

Did you know that all staff at ROH can attend NOA webinars, workshops, meetings and events free of charge? You can get the latest updates and find out about other member benefits on the NOA website: www.nationalorthopaedicalliance.co.uk

Upcoming NOA events

All staff at ROH can attend NOA webinars, workshops, meetings and events free of charge. Upcoming events include:

- **16 February 2022, 13:00 - 14:15** - Webinar: **COVID Orthopaedic Recovery - National and International Recruitment featuring ROH Deputy Chief Nurse, Nikki Brockie**
- **1 March 2022, 10:00 - 13:00** – Cost Improvement Programmes (CIP) workshop hosted by ROH Deputy Director of Finance, **Amanda Gaston**
- **20 April 2022, 13:00 - 14:15** - Webinar: **Management of Serious Incidents and Never Events**
- **19 October 2022, 9:00 - 17:00** - NOA Annual Members' Conference. **Now accepting speaker applications for the conference. Email info.noa@nhs.net by 1 March to express an interest.**

Find out more about current events via nationalorthopaedicalliance.co.uk

NOA: Find out more

If you want to read more about the NOA and see how you can get involved:

Visit: nationalorthopaedicalliance.co.uk

Register: ROH staff are entitled to register for the members' area of the NOA website to access even more resources and information. Register here: bit.ly/NOAMembersArea

Sign up: You can register to receive the NOA newsletter here: bit.ly/NOAMemberNewsletter

Get in touch

- Email: info.noa@nhs.net
- Phone: 020 3947 0849

Scan these codes with your smartphone to keep up to date with what's going on at the NOA



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"I love being able to show how fundamental what we do is": An interview with a Speech and Language Therapist

Speech and language therapists (SLTs) provide life-improving treatment, support and care for children and adults who have difficulties with communication, eating, drinking or swallowing. They also work closely with teachers and other health professionals, such as doctors, nurses, other allied health professionals and psychologists to develop individual treatment programmes.

Here, Charlotte Thompson, who works between The Royal Orthopaedic Hospital (ROH) and Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham (QEHB) explains her role.

What is your role and how long have you been doing it for?

I am a Specialist Adult Hyper Acute/Acute Speech and Language Therapist in general medicine.

At ROH, my primary focus is in the elective and emergency trauma speciality. I have been a speech and language therapist for six years and joined the ROH in May 2021.

What does the SLT service do?

Our main roles and responsibilities are to assess, diagnose and provide goal direct intervention for adults with speech, language and swallowing difficulties for a diverse range of patients. Within ROH, our patients are predominantly the trauma and orthopaedic speciality who have had elective surgeries, but other areas we cover include stroke, neuro-degenerative conditions, respiratory, voice, oncology and brain injury.

In addition to direct, patient-facing contact, we also educate, empower and support relatives and other healthcare professionals ensuring we help others to gain an awareness and understanding into our role, what we can do to support them and ways you can support us, for example understanding the signs of a swallow difficulty so that you can refer to us.

What made you want to be an SLT?

I wanted an occupation where no day would be the same, where my input and opinion is valued and truly essential in our every day. And what is more fundamental than our ability

to eat, drink and communicate? These are all functions we take for granted - our ability to connect, to share our experiences and to show our individuality. For example, how could some of the most influential people on this earth have been able to make a change without their communication?

What is your favourite part of the job?

My favourite parts of the job are going into work every day knowing I have the opportunity to make a positive impact for an individual. I work in an evolving profession which constantly challenges me; I learn something new every day. In my opinion, speech and language therapy is one of the most misunderstood professions within healthcare and I love being able to show all individuals how fundamental we are within a multidisciplinary team.

How can staff refer to you and how can patients get access to the service? Where can they find you for more information?

Within ROH, healthcare professionals and inpatients themselves can access the Speech

and Language Therapy service by emailing us at slt.uhb@nhs.net. We will then provide them with a referral form to complete and send back to us.

Additionally both staff and relatives will be able to attend our monthly Q+A drop-in, which will be located near the Outpatients Department entrance on the first Wednesday of every month. Here everyone and anyone will be provided the opportunity to meet us face-to-face and ask any questions.

We also encourage people to approach us on the wards to raise any questions or queries. We are always here to listen, help and offer support.

