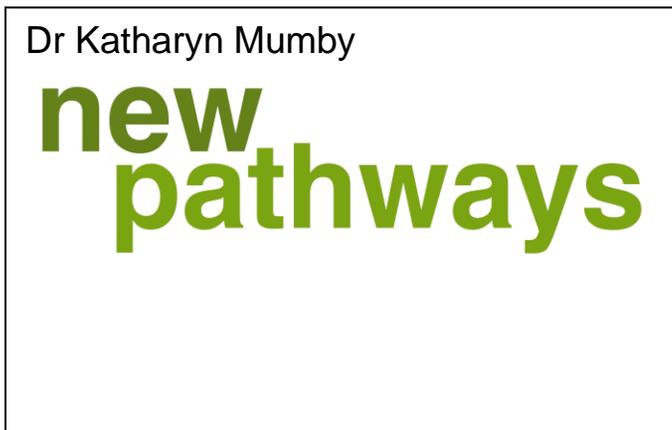


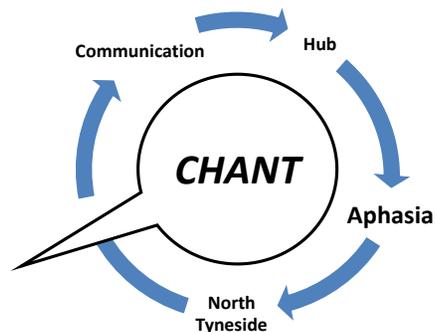
In the UK someone has a stroke every five minutes (about 150,000 people per year). About a third of these people have communication impairment which can involve long term effects. Communication difficulty can combine with mobility problems, making people socially isolated.

After stroke many people benefit from speech and language therapy to help their communication recovery, and adjustment long term in everyday life. Other people need to be aware of aphasia so they can help.

Further information and help from:



An earlier version of this leaflet was produced in North Tyneside by:



HOW TO SPOT APHASIA

What is Aphasia?

Aphasia is a communication impairment most commonly caused by the brain damage from stroke.

It can affect all aspects of communication:

Expressing yourself

- in speech
- writing (including computers)

Understanding

- other people's speech
- reading

It sometimes affects numbers too.

Aphasia can seem like something else:

He was rude – he didn't answer.
He ignored me!

Think again. Did you have his **attention**?

Did he **understand** you?

Was he too **embarrassed** by his speech to answer back?

He's very withdrawn

Did anyone try to talk to him? Or give him **time**?

Did they use **other ways of communication** to help speech?

She must be deaf
– I'll shout

No, she heard you, but you spoke too **quickly**.

Aphasia often makes it hard to process lots of words one after another.

She must be foreign
– or daft

No, she has **aphasia** and her **speech comes out wrong** however hard she tries.

She has lived locally all her life and worked in a bank.

He's drunk –
disgraceful!

No, the aphasia is made worse by:

- '**dysarthria**' from the stroke (weakness and in-coordination)
- '**apraxia**' from the stroke (the mouth 'won't obey' the brain)

He should get his eyes tested!

Actually it's nothing to do with print size. The stroke means he can only see half of everything (**hemianopia**).

He struggles to read.