



Speech and Language Therapy services for people with Primary Progressive Aphasia, and their families

Primary Progressive Aphasia (PPA) is a rare dementia syndrome in which progressive loss of speech and language is the dominant symptom.

Speech and Language Therapy (SLT), when delivered by experienced clinicians and tailored to the individual's changing needs, can play a valuable role in helping people with PPA and their families to manage their everyday communication.

Dyscover is a specialist aphasia support charity, established in 1994.

We support about 90 people a week whose aphasia is caused by stroke.

People with PPA have different needs. We started our first dedicated PPA service in 2015.

We are now expanding and developing our service, based on feedback from people we have already helped, on research evidence, and on our own clinical experience.

Referral criteria

We accept self-referrals, or referral from a health professional.

All people referred are assessed for suitability before therapy is offered. Referrals should;

- Have a diagnosis of Primary Progressive Aphasia (other terms may be used – check if unsure)
- Be able to travel to Leatherhead KT22 0BN for in person meetings, **or** be able to use Zoom to meet online
- Be able to attend with their main conversation partner*

Therapy and support services

One of our SLTs will carry out an assessment by zoom or over the phone to determine the most appropriate support.

The support we offer may be a standalone session, or part of a series of sessions.

Sessions may be in person, at Dyscover in Leatherhead, or online, via Zoom.

*We prefer to see people with their main conversation partner – usually their spouse or a family member. Speak to us if this is not possible.

- **1:1 Advice and guidance sessions**

Information giving and practical support at the early stages of PPA.

Reviewing communication needs and troubleshooting at later stages.

- **Short courses for couples**

We use an approach called Conversation Partner Training to help couples adapt, and learn tactics and strategies for more effective and more enjoyable conversation.

- **Small groups for peer support**

Where possible, we like to offer an introduction to others living with similar type and stage of PPA. Groups are always small and well matched.

They may be for people with a PPA diagnosis or for family members.

Fees

Dyscover is funded by a combination of grants, donations and subsidised fees, paid by the people who use our services.

- Initial telephone or zoom consultation is free
- 1:1 assessment, advice and guidance sessions, 1.5 hours with a SLT - £75
- 4 session SLT led Course of Conversation Partner Training for couples - £300
- Small group led by a SLT – £25 per session

Contact

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