



Speech & Language Therapy Expert Witnesses

At Bush & Co we have a network of Speech & Language Therapists (SaLTs) who are registered allied health professionals working in senior clinical positions in a variety of community and hospital settings.

In rare cases our associate SaLT expert witnesses are asked to undertake liability reports but in the main are instructed to write quantum reports in high value cases providing an opinion on condition and prognosis (in relation to speech & language), recommending further investigations, relevant treatments and therapies.

Bush & Co's associate SaLT expert witnesses have the ability to comment on treatment, support and care for both adults and children who have difficulties with their communication, eating drinking and/or swallowing as a result of a catastrophic injury. They are also able to provide specific recommendations for any necessary augmentative and assistive communications and technology to assist the rehabilitation, functional capacity and independence of a Claimant, supporting educational, accommodation and care needs as necessary.

A variety of evidence-based assessment tools are used as part of the speech and language therapy expert assessment to provide the court with an accurate picture of the speech and language difficulties involved with each case.

Our associates

Our associate speech and language expert witnesses have experience working with:

- Alternative augmented Communication (AAC)
- Brain injuries
- Cerebral Palsy (adult & paediatric)
- Dysphagia
- Head & neck injuries
- Hearing loss and speech
- Paediatric conditions
- Stroke

Get in touch

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Mandy Fairweather | Speech & Language Therapist

Mandy is a well-liked and respected expert witness who has specialised as a speech and language therapist and in particular in the area of acquired brain injury in adults since 1995. Mandy has worked at the National Centre for Brain Injury Rehabilitation, the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Trust and has extensive knowledge of neuro-behavioural interventions gained in these organisations and across the NHS acute sector. Her clinical responsibilities were primarily to Neurological Wards, although she has also worked within the Community Team, supporting clients in the home setting. She provided Outpatient Services for clients with acquired neurological deficits including stroke, brain injury and degenerative conditions.

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Michelle Whitton | Speech and Language Therapist

Michelle is responsive expert witness as well as an experienced specialist speech and language therapist, having practised consistently from 1985. She is primarily specialist in children's disorders and those of young people. As well as having longstanding expertise in all forms of communication from non-verbal, verbal, augmentative and alternative communication, voice output technology and eye gaze systems, she is also experienced in dysphagia. Michelle has wide clinical experience of a variety of communication problems associated with cerebral palsy, acquired brain injury, neurological syndromes and autism, and also has expertise in working with clients with complex needs and sensory loss. She also is experienced in the management of swallowing problems and non-oral feeding.

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Simone James | Speech and Language Therapist

Simone is a Highly Specialised Speech and Language Therapist with twenty-one years' experience in providing diagnosis and intervention for Speech Language Communication Needs and Dysphagia. Working across NHS acute inpatient, community outpatient, domiciliary services and inpatient secure mental health, Simone is skilled in supporting adults with acquired and progressive neurological conditions including traumatic brain injury, stroke, dementia, Motor Neurone Disease, Parkinson's Disease and Huntington's Disease. Simone is experienced in senior leadership and has managed large clinical teams, with responsibility for quality and governance, policy development, student placements, clinical supervision, professional registration, audit, recruitment and appraisal.

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Jane Whittaker | Speech and Language Therapist

Jane is a Speech & Language Therapist with over 35 years' experience in treating patients with acquired, communication, swallowing (oropharyngeal dysphagia) and voice disorders arising from brain Injury or trauma, psychiatric illness and mechanical ventilation +/-tracheostomy tubes. Her clinical career spans across private practice and the NHS including Portsmouth Hospitals Trust, Southampton University Hospital Trust, Spire Hospitals and the Priory Group. She has held senior clinical leadership positions whilst managing complex caseloads; many of which reside in medium secure mental health settings. During this time, she has been responsible for several clinical developments within Speech & Language departments. She has established risk assessment and care planning procedures for swallowing and nutrition in two independent medium secure units and has delivered education and training on the management of tracheostomy tubes with regards to speech, communication, and swallowing. Jane is also experienced in assisting vulnerable adults to communicate their needs and wishes within care homes and hospital environments.

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