

# Creative Communicators: A Group-Based Collaboration between the Speech and Language Therapy Services of CAVUHB Community Neurological Rehabilitation Service, Cardiff Metropolitan University and Chroma

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## Context and Approach:

- Creation of a collaborative project co-produced with CAVUHB, Cardiff Metropolitan University's (CMU) Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) Department, and Chroma, encompassing the NHS, education and the private sector.
- This innovative and novel cross-boundary partnership facilitates community-based CNRS/CMU communication groups, which include an Aphasia-Friendly Choir in collaboration with Chroma at CMU.
- Objectives: To explore the opportunities for collaboration, prudent healthcare practices, and co-production with service users, staff, and students as part of this new model of service delivery.

## Progress to date:

### Research:

**Aim** - to explore the benefits of collaborative working between an NHS service and a University SLT department. Six posters were created based on the outcomes of the collaboration. Presented at various conferences over the last year. Presentation to R&D Dept, Therapies Directorate, CAVUHB, documenting research journey including Bevan Fellow project.

### Publications to date/Planned Publications:

- Future poster presentations at the Welsh Stroke Conference and British Aphasiology Society International Conference 2025.
- Publication in International Journal of Language and Communication Disorders: inpatientAphasia-Friendly Choir related to Cardiff and Vale Aphasia-Friendly Choir.



### Leadership:

- Successful funding application made to the Tavistock Trust for Aphasia enabling 24 sessions of Cardiff and Vale Aphasia-Friendly Choir 2024-2025.
- Choir invited to sing at the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists' 80th Birthday Event at the Senedd, January 2025.
- Plans for spread and scale of model underway within CAVUHB, across other therapy disciplines and nationally within SLT services (through All Wales SLT Research Champions' Network).
- Presentation to National Strategic Clinical Network for Neurological Conditions, July 2025.

### Education/teaching:

- 8 direct student placements with communication groups, with students developing increasing levels of independence and facilitation of the groups.
- 18 students have had direct contact with Aphasia-Friendly Choir, with additional students observing, enabling Interprofessional Education hours to be completed.
- Successful abstract and planned poster presentations written by student SLTs - introducing them to collaborative research and working at an under-graduate level.

## Future activity:

- Professional Doctorate
- Sustainability of groups through third sector relationships.
- Further contribution to the evidence base for health and the arts/music/singing.
- Exploring the mechanisms to share the model and project more widely.

## Reflections:

- Principle challenge continues to be around funding and sustainability of the choir moving forward.
- Objectives have been stable throughout the project; the experience has enabled research and leadership to be built more explicitly into the clinical role.
- Continue to contribute to the evidence base for health and the arts/music/singing.



Anyway, just want to say a huge thank you for allowing me to join the aphasia choir - I thoroughly enjoyed it and it meant a lot to be part of something and to meet people with the same condition as me. Your work is very important and I really, really appreciate it.

