

# A Career in Speech and Language Therapy

AHP Information Evening for Educators  
17 January 2019

Pauline Downie, Head of Speech and Language Therapy Service



Last year we asked staff,

“What does Speech and Language Therapy  
mean to you?”

What does SLT mean to you?  
Supporting individuals  
at a time when they need it



Speech and Language  
Therapy transforms lives

@AdultSLTLan

[www.givingvoiceuk.org](http://www.givingvoiceuk.org)

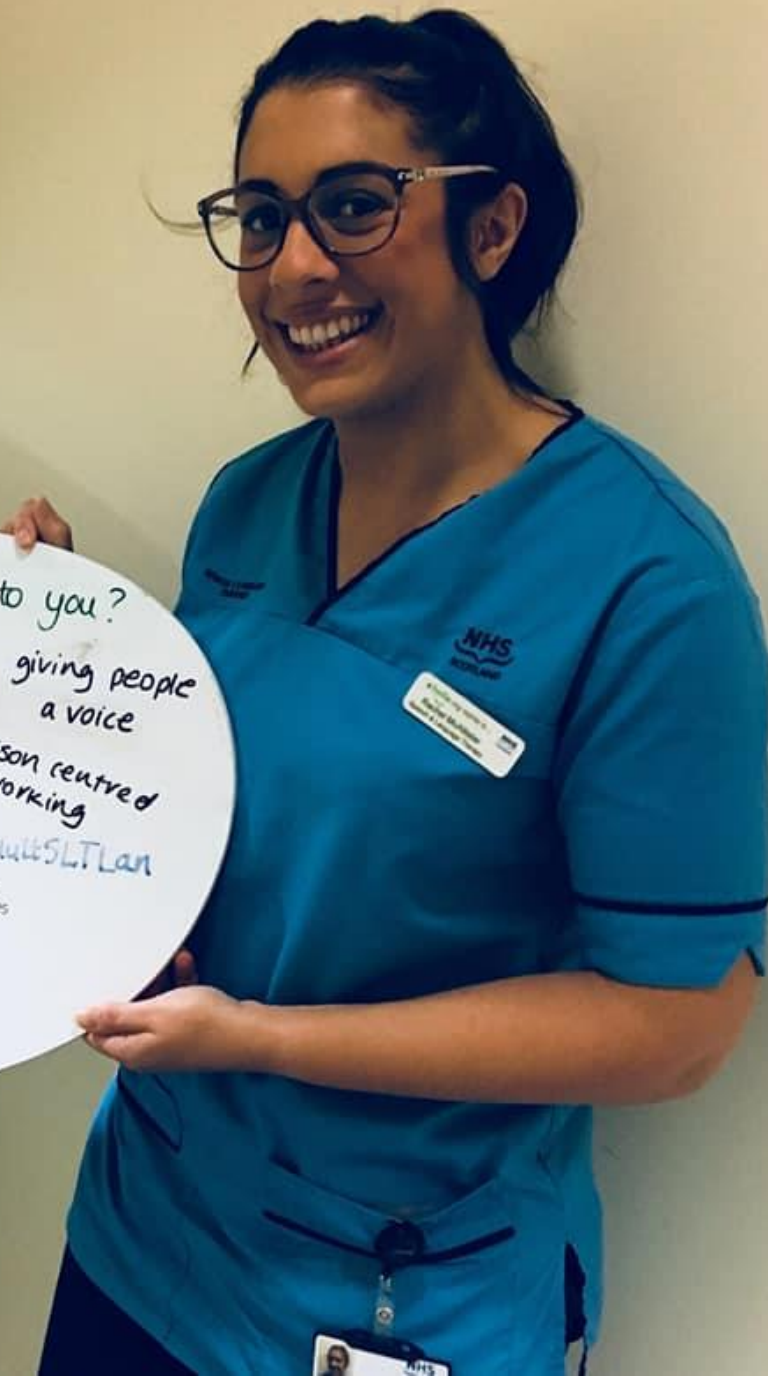


What does SLT mean to you?

- Supporting people & their families
- listening to others
- giving people a voice
- respecting all views & beliefs
- person centred working
- not working

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Speech and Language Therapy transforms lives  
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Speech & Language  
Therapy.

What does it mean to you?  
Meeting interesting  
people!

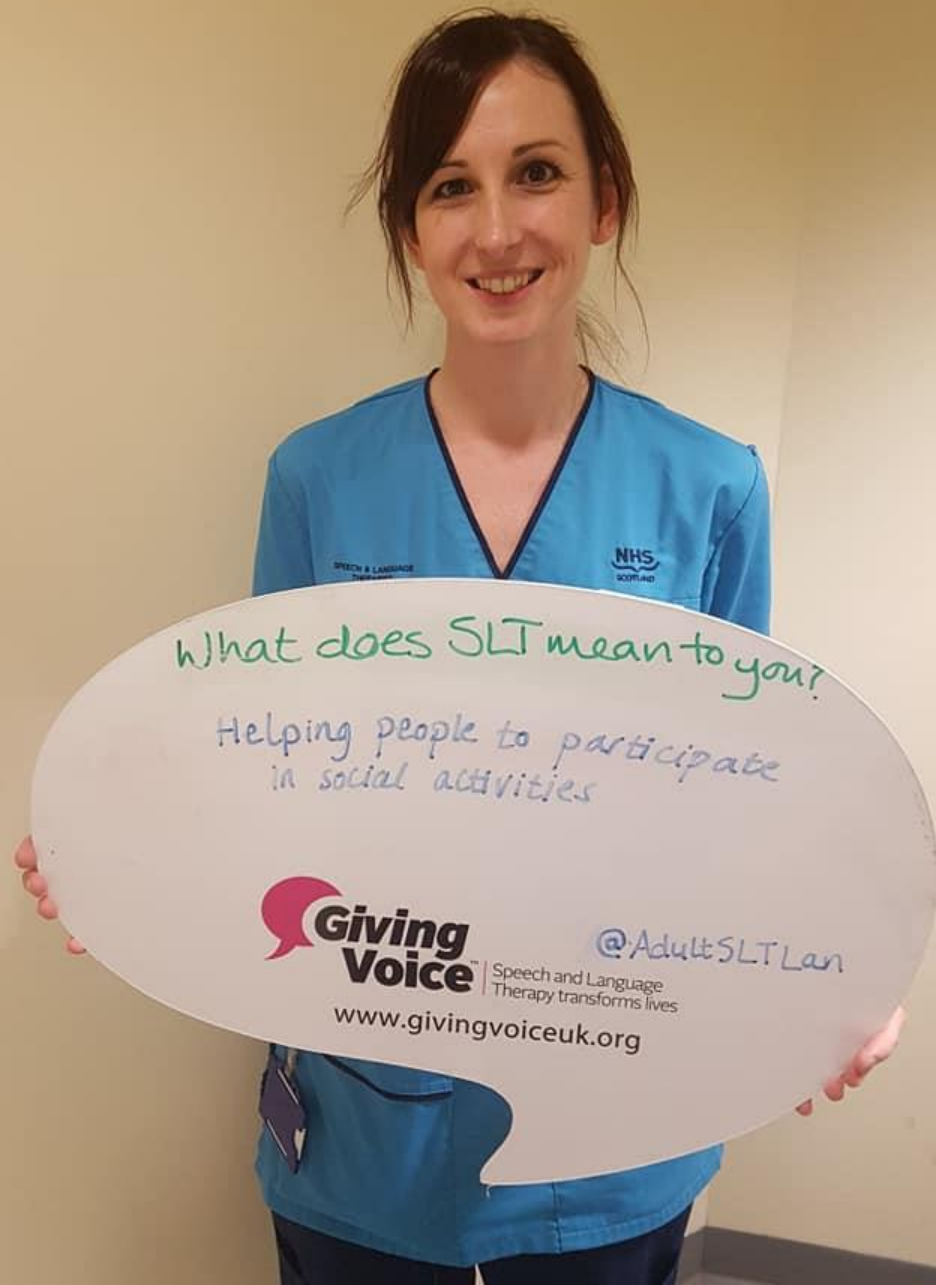


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What does SLT mean to you?

Helping people to participate  
in social activities

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What does SLT mean to you?

Supporting patients to  
reach their potential.

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Speech & Language  
Therapy.

What does it mean to you?

NEW CHALLENGES



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"Improving quality of life  
for all patients at any  
stage of their illness"

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What does SLT mean to you??  
BEING AN ADVOCATE  
FOR THOSE WITH HIDDEN  
DISABILITIES!



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What does SLT mean to you?

EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS TO  
MEET THEIR COMMUNICATION  
AND SWALLOWING POTENTIAL



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What does SLT mean to you??

Communication is the way we stay connected to our world. It puts us in touch with others, allows us to express ideas & feelings, give direction and exert control over our environment !! 😊

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↳ Providing Person Centred Care  
and Making a difference  
to the lives of our  
patients, their families and carers

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learn share

Do you know someone who can't speak or who has difficulties with speech and communication? Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) might help.

For more information, contact:  
www.givingvoiceuk.org

Facebook: AAC Association UK  
Twitter: @AACAssociation

Having a positive effect  
on people who experience challenges  
with voice, speech and swallowing.

**Giving Voice** Speech and Language  
Therapy transforms lives  
[www.givingvoiceuk.org](http://www.givingvoiceuk.org)





★ FRIENDSHIP ★ Support  
transforming  
Extended Family  
Caring  
SUPPORT CARE  
Ending  
Giving Voice  
Speech and Language  
Therapy Transforms Lives  
www.givingvoiceuk.org

## SLTs-what do we do?

Speech and language therapists are professionals who help children and adults who have difficulties with communication or with eating, drinking or swallowing.

## SLTs- where do we work

### All over Lanarkshire!

Hospitals

Health Centres

Schools

Nurseries

Family Learning Centres

Care Homes

Prisons

People's Homes

## SLTs- who do we help?

### Adults with:

- Learning difficulties
- Physical difficulties
- Acquired conditions such as stroke or brain injury
- Neurodegenerative conditions such as Parkinson's, dementia, MND, MS, Huntington's
- Voice problems
- Swallowing problems
- Mental Health conditions
- Stammering

### Babies with:

- Feeding and swallowing difficulties
- Hearing problems

### Children with:

- Learning difficulties
- Physical difficulties
- Mental Health problems
- Developmental Language Disorder
- Difficulties in producing speech sounds
- Deafness
- Cleft lip and palate
- Stammering
- Autism
- Voice disorders
- Selective mutism

## What do our clients say about us?

...the difference in my little girl is amazing...

...excellent care and treatment..

...the SLT was an empathic and caring person who was prepared to listen...my voice is much stronger ...

...the SLT was professional, caring and always available-they made a huge difference to our family...

..the SLT team work coherently together with the firm focus on getting the patient through some very challenging times...

## Who would make a good SLT? Do you enjoy...

working with people of all ages and from all backgrounds

working as part of a team

leading a team

being part of a dynamic, rapidly developing profession which encompasses science, education, social sciences, languages, linguistics and medicine

always learning new things and being creative

being responsible and accountable for your work

solving problems

listening and communicating with people



So how do you become  
a Speech and Language  
Therapist?

## SLT Courses in Scotland

### **Strathclyde University**

4 year BSc (Hons) course

### **Queen Margaret University**

4 year BSc (Hons) course

or

2 year PgDip + 4 months MSc

# Entry Requirements- undergraduate

## Strathclyde University

### Highers

- 1st sitting: AAAB or AABBB  
2nd sitting: AAABB or AABBBB
- **Required Higher subjects**
- Higher English B
- Maths and a science (Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Engineering Science or Computing Science) all at a minimum National 5 C or equivalent
- another language at National 5 C is recommended

## Queen Margaret University

### Scottish Higher: AABBB

**Required subjects:** At least one of the following subjects at Higher/ A Level or equivalent; Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Psychology or Maths. English and Maths at S/Int2/N5/GCSE level.

## What is the course like?

- **Academic Subjects include**
  - Linguistics
  - Phonetics
  - Psychology
  - Anatomy and Physiology
  - Neuroanatomy
  - Speech, Language, Communication and Swallowing conditions
  - Research
- **Practical Placements each year**
  - In hospitals, health centres, schools, nuseries

## Speech and Language Therapy Assistants

- SLT Assistants work with SLTs to support Adults and Children with Communication and Swallowing difficulties
- No formal educational requirements
- On the job training- opportunities for further study
- New healthcare apprenticeship Scheme in England

## What is the pay like?

- SLTs are on Agenda for Change pay rates
- SLT range band 5-8 (£23K-£60K)
- SLTA range band 2-4 (£17K-£23K)



## Can you work overseas?

- Yes- there is a Mutual Recognition of Credentials agreement with many countries.
- If working in a country where English is not the first language you would have to have a very good standard of the language

## Work experience opportunities

If you would like to know more about speech and language therapy as a career please contact

[nextgen@nhs.net](mailto:nextgen@nhs.net) to arrange a work experience placement

## SLTs- follow us!



@SLT North  
@adultSLTLan  
@AAC Lanarkshire  
@paulinedownie



Adult Speech and Language  
Therapy NHS Lanarkshire  
Speech and Language  
Therapy NHS Lanarkshire  
AAC Lanarkshire

## Useful links

### **Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists**

<https://www.rcslt.org/speech-and-language-therapy>

<https://www.rcslt.org/-/media/Project/RCSLT/rcslt-what-is-slt-factsheet.pdf>

### **Strathclyde University**

<https://www.strath.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/speechlanguagepathology/>

### **Queen Margaret University**

<https://www.qmu.ac.uk/study-here/undergraduate-study/2019-undergraduate-courses-folder/bsc-hons-speech-and-language-therapy/>

<https://www.qmu.ac.uk/study-here/postgraduate-study/2019-postgraduate-courses/pgdip-msc-speech-and-language-therapy-pre-registration/>

### **NHS Lanarkshire**

<http://www.nhslanarkshire.org.uk/Services/SLT/Pages/default.aspx>

### **SLT Lanarkshire Facebook pages**

<https://www.facebook.com/SLTNorthLan/>

<https://www.facebook.com/adultSLTLan/>

<https://www.facebook.com/AAC-Lanarkshire-361951600642641/>

# What does Speech and Language Therapy mean to me?

Helping people with communication and swallowing difficulties to live their lives and fulfill their potential

A satisfying, fulfilling, lifelong career

Working with amazing colleagues and friends

Helping my staff to be the best SLTs and SLTAs they can be



**Pauline Downie**  
Professional Lead for Speech and Language Therapy  
NHS Lanarkshire

**Questions?**



