



CLAPA Adult Services Project

Background to the project

There are an estimated 72,000 people over the age of 18 living in the United Kingdom who were born with a cleft. Understanding and supporting the unique needs and experiences of adults affected by cleft is very important to CLAPA. From March 2018-February 2021, CLAPA is undertaking an exciting new project funded by the VTCT Foundation looking at improving services for adults who were born with a cleft.

Survey

In the first year, the project will be largely focussed on researching and identifying the needs of adults who were born with cleft. As part of this, there will be a comprehensive survey seeking the thoughts and experiences of all adults born with a cleft across the UK. It is anticipated that this survey will be ready to complete in the summertime, so please help us to improve adult services by completing the survey when it becomes available!



Roadshow

Additionally, in the summertime, the new Adult Services Coordinator (ASC), in conjunction with the CLAPA team, will look to deliver an event in each of the 8 CLAPA Regions. These events will encourage people to complete the survey, raise awareness across the UK that cleft affects adults too, and provide a safe space and a platform for people to share experiences and meet others.

We hope that adults with no connection to CLAPA or NHS Cleft Teams may discover these days and wish to come along too – the more the merrier! Following the formal business of the day, it is hoped that a social activity can be run for adults with cleft in the evening so they can get to know each other and start creating local support networks.

Mini Conference



Following the completion of the survey and the roadshow, we will start to analyse the data collected to identify the common themes affecting adults, and looking at suggested services. This will be collated, and a preliminary discussion will be held on the outcomes at a CLAPA Adults Mini Conference in November, with a full report estimated for completion in February 2019. Following this, recommendations will be made on how to proceed for the second year where new adult services can be trialled and delivered.

What can I do to help?

As an adult born with a cleft, there are a few things that you can do to help! We want to spread the word about the Adult Services Project as far and wide as we can, and there's a few ways you can help us to do that:

- ✓ **Let other adults with a cleft in your circles know about the project and the upcoming survey – share our information about the project on social media, put up a poster at your local supermarket, spread the word at your workplace, etc. Remember, since cleft affects around 1 in 700 people in the UK, chances are that everyone knows someone who knows someone with a cleft!**
- ✓ **Complete the upcoming survey as comprehensively and honestly as you can – the more information we have, the better we can develop services that meet the needs of the cleft community.**
- ✓ **If you're considering or currently having further treatment, make sure your Cleft Team know about the project too. Feel free to mention it to them at your next appointment!**
- ✓ **Help us organise a roadshow event in your area! Do you know of a venue or activity that we could be heading along to? If so, please get in touch!**
- ✓ **Join the CLAPA Community (it's free!)**





Interested in getting involved?

You can connect with the project by:

- ✓ Visiting our website at:
www.clapa.com/adultservicesproject/
- ✓ Joining our Facebook community at:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/CLAPAadults/>
- ✓ Contacting our Adult Services Coordinator, Kenny Ardouin at:
kenny.ardouin@clapa.com or by calling 020 7833 4883



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