

If you have experienced swallowing difficulties or are a carer with experience in helping someone with swallowing difficulties we would like to hear from you.

The Dysphagia NI Partnership aims to improve outcomes for people with eating, drinking and swallowing difficulties, staff, carers and organisations.

We work in partnership across Health and Social Care and other key stakeholders to develop regional systems and processes based on the needs of people with eating, drinking and swallowing difficulties.

Why should I get involved?

Service users and carers are a critical part of the journey towards better health and care outcomes for people with eating, drinking and swallowing difficulties. You will have an active role in improving the quality and safety of services for those with eating, drinking and swallowing difficulties, sharing your expertise and knowledge and contributing to tailoring of services.

If I engage with the project what can I expect?

If you agree to engage in the project you will be asked to;

- Take part in structured discussions about your experiences and participate in shaping resources that will positively impact the lives of those living with or caring for someone with EDS difficulties.
- Respond to information and requests either via email, telephone or face to face.(depending on your preference)
- If possible, attend virtually or in person at events such as meetings, information events, focus groups and formal consultation workshops
- Take part in regional events to promote the positive impact that service user involvement can create.
- Share your own personal experience. For example via a blog in our newsletter, promotional materials, world swallow awareness day.

What support will be available to me?

We will be in touch to find out how you would like to engage with the project. We aim to assist you with information about the meetings and events in advance. This will include details of planned events and meetings. If we plan to ask for feedback

from you, we will give you notice of this so that you can prepare for the conversations at the event. If you are not able to attend events or meetings, we will seek your feedback after the event and share any relevant papers with you.

We will provide you with details of a designated person who you can speak to if you have any questions or queries at any time.

If you have particular access requirements, please make us aware of these in advance of the event and we will work with you to accommodate these as far as possible.

If I choose to take part will I be able to claim out of pocket expenses?

Yes, we will pay out of pocket expenses and just ask for you to complete a form and include the receipt. We will provide you with guidelines on completing the expense form.

I would like to take part – who should I contact?

Firstly, thank you for your interest. If you would like to participate as the service user or carer representative for your HSC Trust area, please advise Alison McCusker at Public Health Agency. Alison can be contacted by email at Alison.mccusker@hscni.net

How can I find out more?

If you would like to find out more about this project before committing, please contact in the first instance Alison.mccusker@hscni.net