

Cuts have hit our therapy

□ WE are stroke survivors who attend UCL Communication Clinic.

We want to raise awareness of cuts affecting services for those with aphasia.

Aphasia is a communication problem affecting speech, reading, writing and understanding. It affects approximately 350,000 people in the UK.

NHS and local authority cuts have reduced the amount of therapy those with aphasia receive. According to the King's Fund, local authorities' planned spending on public health services between 2015/16 and 2016/17 has been cut by 9 per cent.

Charities who work with people with aphasia have also been affected, for example, Speakability, which merged with the Stroke Association and Connect, which closed recently.

Is it fair to spend £608m on Trident each year, £42-£60bn on Brexit and £63bn on HS2 when after care is reduced?

We urge central and local government to restore health care funding and we have recently taken up the issue with MP Keir Starmer.

This letter has been written with help from UCL Communication Clinic staff.

**UCL COMMUNICATION CLINIC
SUPPORT GROUP MEMBERS**