**Cerebral Palsy**

**Summary:**

Cerebral palsy is an umbrella term for a group of lifelong conditions that affect movement and co-ordination, caused by a problem with the brain that occurs before, during or soon after birth.

**Symptoms:**

The severity of symptoms can vary significantly. Some people only have minor problems, while others may be severely disabled. They may include:

* weak arms or legs
* fidgety, jerky or clumsy movements
* random, uncontrolled movements
* lack of muscle co-ordination
* difficulty walking
* problems with swallowing and eating
* difficulty speaking
* difficulty with fine motor skills such as using cutlery, scissors, pen etc.
* vision problems
* learning disabilities

**Strategies:**

Because of the wide range of symptoms and their severity, it is vital to talk with the student to agree how best to help. Look on Staff Advantage to find individual guidance for the student.

For further guidance see below.

[NHS Information](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/cerebral-palsy/)

[Mayo Clinic Information](https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/cerebral-palsy/symptoms-causes/syc-20353999)

[SCOPE Website](https://www.scope.org.uk/advice-and-support/cerebral-palsy-introduction/)