



Evidence for the Commissioning Toolkit
– the risks of not providing speech and language therapy

Topic/Reference	Summary
<p style="text-align: center;">Children</p> <p>Clegg, Hoiis and Rutter <i>Life Sentence</i> Bulletin 571 p.16-18 (RCSLT 1999)</p>	<p>SLT intervention helps secure accurate diagnosis by providing a differential diagnosis between mental illness and language disorder, reducing pressures within the health system. Similarly, one third of children with diagnosed communication problems will develop mental illness if untreated creating extra burdens.</p>
<p>Locke, Ginsborg et al <i>Development and Disadvantage in Early Years</i> International Journal of Language and Communication Disorders Vol 27 No 1 (2002)</p>	<p>Health later in life is influenced by factors right at the start of life and positive early relationships can affect later resilience and mental wellbeing. Interventions targeted at children in underprivileged communities right at the start of life, through Sure Start for instance, are proven to improve life chances and life expectancy itself. We know that accessing education has an impact on qualifications, employability and therefore income, with income being one of the biggest determinants of health. Without early access to SLT assistance in education (and especially reading and writing skills) children with communication difficulties can find later academic ability compromised. Conversely, timely intervention can minimise a young person's future service needs.</p>

<p>G Lindsay <i>Educational Provision for Children with Specific Speech and Language Difficulties</i> Cedar (2002)</p>	<p>SLTs can pass on expertise in a range of settings, reducing pressures and waiting times within the NHS. In Derby, Learning Support Assistants from local mainstream schools in Derby, were seconded by the Local Authority to work within the SLT service. SLT's devised individual work programmes for each child and the LSAs were trained by our therapists to use therapy strategies for children with speech and language disorders. The LSAs visited local schools over a five-week period to coach classroom-based staff on delivering the SLT programme. All children made measurable progress and were reviewed every half term by SLT's. Therapists now see children in school not clinic which enables them to work within multidisciplinary teams, reduces DNA rates and children benefit from a more holistic approach.</p>
<p>Blanden J, Gregg P, Machin S. <i>Intergenerational Mobility in Europe and North America.</i> Sutton Trust- Centre for Economic Performance (2005)</p>	<p>This report says that Britain along with the USA has the lowest levels of social mobility (i.e. have the lowest levels of equality of economic and social opportunity) The most significant influencing factor is educational attainment. It recommends a strategy to equalise opportunity by ensuring that children from an early age have the fundamental skills to access the curriculum, including good communication skills.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Offending</p> <p>Snow and Powell <i>Developmental Language Disorders and Adolescent Risk</i> Current Issues in Criminal Justice 16(2) Australia (2004)</p>	<p>Communication difficulties can greatly affect the formation of relationships and can often lead to behavioural problems. These preventable difficulties have a major impact on the individual's life chances and pose a financial burden on the organizations and agencies who support the children, young people and eventually adults including the criminal justice system and mental health services. SLTs reduce social exclusion for children in a range of care pathways including those with learning difficulties or specific communication impairments.</p>

<p>Snow, P.C. & Powell, M.B. <i>Developmental language disorders and adolescent risk: A public-health advocacy role for Speech Pathologists?</i> Advances in Speech Pathology, 6(4), 221-2229 2004</p>	
<p>Bryan, K. and Forshaw, N. <i>Communication Disorders and the Criminal Justice System</i> in J. France and S. Kramer.</p>	<p>The paper below is an overview and covers issues such as people with learning difficulties in the criminal justice system.</p>
<p>Snow, P. <i>Language disabilities, comorbid developmental disorders and risk for drug abuse in adolescence</i> Brain Impairment, 1(2), 165-176 (2000)</p>	<p>This study demonstrates that good speech and language skills act as a "protective factor" which reduces the likelihood of poor school attendance, truancy, delinquency and substance misuse. This work shows that learning problems may be a surrogate indicator for developmental language problems.</p>

<p>Snow, P.C & Powell, M. <i>Interviewing juvenile offenders: The importance of oral language competence.</i>Current Issues in Criminal Justice, 16(2), 220-225. (2004)</p>	
<p>Humber, E. & Snow, P.C. <i>The oral language skills of young offenders: A pilot investigation.</i></p> <p>Psychiatry, Psychology and Law, 8(1), 1-11. (2001)</p>	
<p>Bryan, K. and Forshaw, N. Communication Disorders and the Criminal Justice System. In J. France and S. Kramer.</p>	<p>The paper below is an overview and covers issues such as people with learning difficulties in the criminal justice system.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Waiting Times</p> <p>P Carding <i>Voice Pathology Clinics in the UK</i> Clinical Otolaryngology & Allied Sciences, Vol 28, Issue 6 (2003)</p>	<p>In South Manchester, expert SLTs have led voice clinics since 2002, taking case histories and performing fiberoptic and rigid stroboscopic examinations as required. The Consultant laryngologist is called in when necessary and only 20% of referrals require surgery. A similar single clinic is run alongside the Consultant's general ENT clinic. This has enabled double the number of appointments to be offered, freed up Consultant time and reduced waiting times.</p>
<p>Sell, Mars and Worrell <i>Process and outcome study of multidisciplinary prosthetic treatment for velopharyngeal dysfunction</i> International Journal of Language and Communication Disorders (2006)</p>	<p>Without SLTs, pressures on other services increase. For instance, SLTs providing cleft lip and palate services in Great Ormond Street Hospital are helping to alleviate pressure on surgeons (often consultant plastic surgeons) by undertaking endoscopic evaluation of velopharyngeal function for the investigations of nasal speech. Furthermore these skills also allow the development of a comprehensive prosthetic service for these patients without encroaching on surgical time.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Stroke</p> <p>Pollack Mr and Disler PB <i>Rehabilitation of Patients After Stroke</i> The Medical Journal of Australia 77 (8)</p>	<p>Treatment of stroke patients is most affective during the acute phase (within days of onset). Half of 75% who survive stroke require specialised rehabilitation in order to gain an acceptable quality of life.</p>

<p>Robey, RR <i>The efficacy of treatment for aphasic persons: a meta-analysis</i> Brian Kang 1994 47 (4) 582-608</p>	<p>Dysphasic patients treated with speech therapy have much better outcomes than those who are not treated.</p>
<p>Mazzoni, M., Vista, M., Geri, E., Avila, L., Bianchi, F., Moretti, P <i>Comparison of language recovery in rehabilitated and matched, non-rehabilitated aphasic patients.</i> Aphasiology. 9 (1995), 553–632.</p>	<p>About one third of acute stroke patients are aphasic. Key indicators – functional outcome, mood, quality of life and ability to return to work– are highly correlated to early intervention and the number of treatments available to dysphasic patients.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Older People</p> <p>Bryan, K and Maxim J <i>Communication Disability in the Dementias.</i> (2006) Bryan, K. and Maxim, J. Letter to the Editor. IJLCD, 37,215-222 2002</p>	<p>The value of SLT to people with dementia is outlined and fully referenced. The RCSLT position paper 2005 has a referenced section on the risks of not providing SLT for older people with dementia.</p>
<p>Bryan, K. and Maxim, J. <i>Managing language and communication difficulties in Alzheimer's dementia: the link to behaviour.</i> In. T. Adams and J. Manthorpe (eds) <i>Dementia Care.</i> London: Arnold 2003</p>	<p>The paper below shows how important good management of communication is to managing challenging behaviour which often results in people being put into care or given expensive medications which cause side effects detrimental to their health.</p>
<p>Kindell J <i>Feeding and swallowing disorders in dementia.</i> Speechmark Publications: Oxford</p>	<p>This paper sets out the SLT role in managing feeding- very topical given recent news re malnutrition in older people.</p>