Bercow: Ten Years On
Commission to conduct interviews for ‘deep dives’
Specification of requirements

Introduction
The Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT) and I CAN invite applications for a commission to conduct semi-structured qualitative interviews as part of the Bercow: Ten Years On review. This document sets out the background and requirements for the commission, and details of the application process.

Background
In 2017/18, I CAN and the RCSLT are undertaking an independent review of the state of provision for children’s speech, language and communication needs (SLCN), entitled Bercow: Ten Years On, which will be published in early 2018.

In 2018 it will be ten years since the Government published The Bercow Report: a review of services for children and young people (0-19) with speech, language and communication needs.

The last ten years have seen major changes: an overhaul of the education system, widespread reforms to the SEND system, changes to the health system and changes in government. We are operating in a completely different landscape – in terms of services and politically. In the context of these changes it is imperative that we keep the issue of children’s speech, language and communication needs in the spotlight for policy-makers, commissioners, managers and practitioners.

The report will provide information about the current landscape for children and young people with SLCN, making recommendations for future action to ensure their needs are a high priority for the current and future governments.

Evidence collection to date
The review launched in January 2017, and to date we have collected evidence through a variety of methods:
- Call for written evidence
- Online surveys of
  - practitioners
  - parents/carers
  - employers
  - commissioners
  - children and young people
- Oral evidence sessions
- Desktop research

Further consultation with children and young people is planned for autumn 2017.

‘Deep dives’
Following the evidence gathering, we intend to carry out some ‘deep dives’ in order to test out some of the findings arising from the evidence gathering in order to refine or add detail. It is not the intention that the deep dives should generate additional evidence. Instead, through the deep dives we are aiming to:
- Identify the root cause of some of the issues
- Find out what the issues look like ‘on the ground’
- Test out potential solutions and recommendations
We intend to conduct the deep dives through a series of semi-structured qualitative interviews conducted by telephone in three local areas. The interviews should engage with a range of professionals and leaders working across health, education and the local authority, and may include some of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health</th>
<th>Local authority</th>
<th>Schools/education</th>
<th>Families /community</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CCG commissioner</td>
<td>LA commissioner</td>
<td>Regional school commissioner</td>
<td>Parent Carer Forum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and wellbeing board representative</td>
<td>Director of children’s services</td>
<td>CEO of MAT / Executive Head of school federation</td>
<td>Voluntary/ community sector providers</td>
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<tr>
<td>STP representative</td>
<td>Director of public health</td>
<td>Head teacher</td>
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<tr>
<td>HealthWatch representative</td>
<td>Early Years Strategic Lead</td>
<td>SENDCO / SENCO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Designated medical / clinical officer</td>
<td>SEND Team Manager</td>
<td>Teacher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Speech and language therapist /manager (NHS /independent)</td>
<td>Specialist teacher for communication</td>
<td>Early years practitioner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health visitor team manager</td>
<td>Youth Offending Team manager</td>
<td>FE college principal</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Virtual School Head</td>
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**Requirements**

- 10-12 interviews of approximately 45 minutes each should be conducted in each of the three local areas. The interviews should include representatives from all of the above sectors; any essential interviewees will be identified by the Bercow: Ten Years On project team.
- Contact details will be sourced by the Bercow: Ten Years On project team; the successful applicant will be required to make contact to schedule times for the interviews to take place.
- A topic guide for the interviews will be developed by the Bercow: Ten Years On project team, as well as a framework for data collation.
- The successful applicant will be required to analyse the resulting data and produce a short report summarising the key findings, to support the development of recommendations.
- The successful applicant should:
  - Have experience of communicating with a range of professionals and senior leaders in local systems.
  - Have experience of analysing and summarising qualitative data
  - Be flexible in order to make the interviews at the times convenient to the interviewees

**Timetable and outputs**

An outline of the timings for activities is provided below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contract agreed</td>
<td>15 September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Set up interviews</td>
<td>18 – 29 September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conduct telephone interviews</td>
<td>2 – 20 October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analysis and write up</td>
<td>21 – 30 October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit report</td>
<td>31 October</td>
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</table>
The output of the project should be a concise report drawing together the results of the interviews (up to a maximum of 10 pages).

All data collected for the project should be provided electronically on completion of the contract or when requested.

**Costs**
The total budget for this piece of work is £3,500 plus VAT (including expenses).

**Application process**
Applicants should submit a concise proposal, no more than two sides of A4, outlining how they would complete this piece of work to time and budget.

Applications will be judged on the basis of:

- Relevant skills and experience of the applicant
  - Understanding and experience of communicating with a range of professionals and senior leaders in local systems
  - Understanding of children and young people’s speech, language and communication needs
  - Level of skill and experience in conducting interviews.
  - Track record of producing similar work of a high quality
  - Track record of producing similar scale of work to deadline
- The adequacy and quality of proposed project management and risk management arrangements
- Overall costs

Applications should therefore include the following details:

- The names and relevant experience, in terms of subject knowledge and skills, of those involved
- Time commitment to the project (in days)
- Timetable
- Arrangements for administration and management of the project
- Costs

Applicants should submit proposals to Bercow10@ican.org.uk by midday on Tuesday 29th August.

**Questions**
If you have question on any details of the specification, please contact Mandy Grist on Bercow10@ican.org.uk