

# Results of NI RCSLT survey of communication needs after stroke

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# 2017 Survey of communication needs after a stroke



Each question uses the same symbols to help you.

- Question =
- Yes/No Option =
- Please tick to answer =
- Write Answer =
- Tick box =

Do you have problems with communicating after your stroke?

Yes



No



If yes, please read on. We really want to hear your views. You might like to have someone to support you when you look at this booklet.

Complete this survey to show us the impact that your communication difficulty has had on your life.

14.	Please tick	
	Did you have a delay in getting speech and language therapy? 	YES

15.	Please tick	
	Why do you think there was a delay? 	I was too ill 
Other reasons/comments		

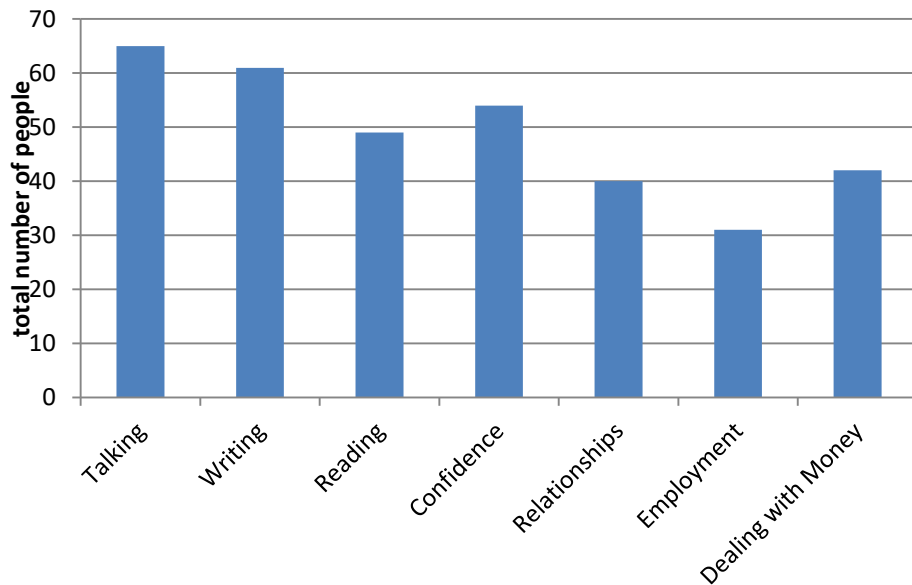
16.	Please tick			
	Could you estimate how many sessions of speech and language therapy you received?	1-5	5-10	10+
In Hospital				
In your care home?				
When you went home				

# Who responded to communication survey

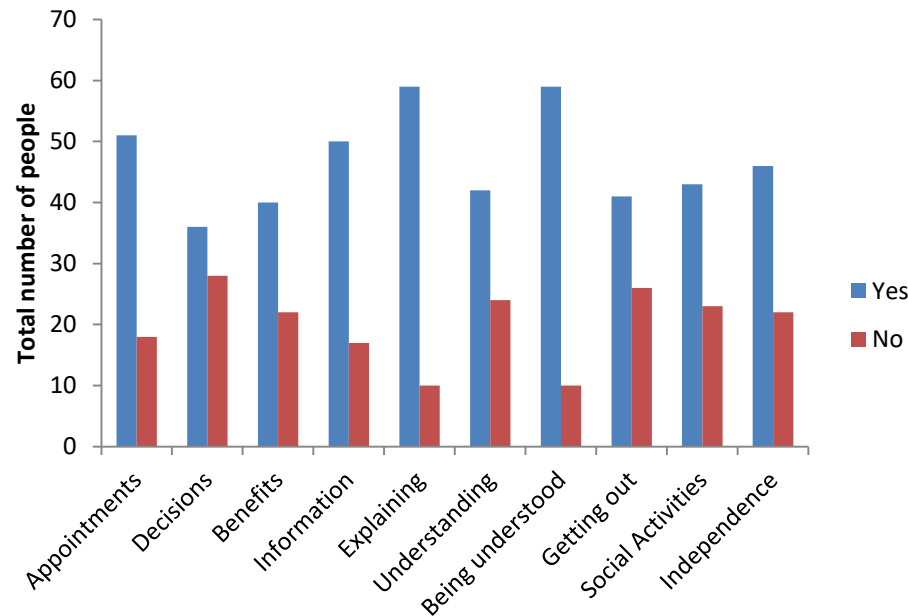
<b>Total</b>	<b>71</b>						
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Male: 48</b>			<b>Female: 23</b>			
<b>Age</b>	<b>Under 40</b>	<b>Under 50</b>		<b>50-65</b>	<b>66-75</b>		<b>75+</b>
	0	9		24	21		14
<b>When Stroke Happened</b>	<b>0-3 months</b>	<b>3-6 months</b>	<b>6-12 months</b>	<b>1-2 years</b>	<b>2-5 years</b>	<b>5-10 years</b>	<b>10+ years</b>
	9	6	8	15	17	12	10
<b>Living</b>	<b>Home</b>			<b>Nursing/Care</b>		<b>Hospital</b>	
	66			3		2	

# Communication affects....

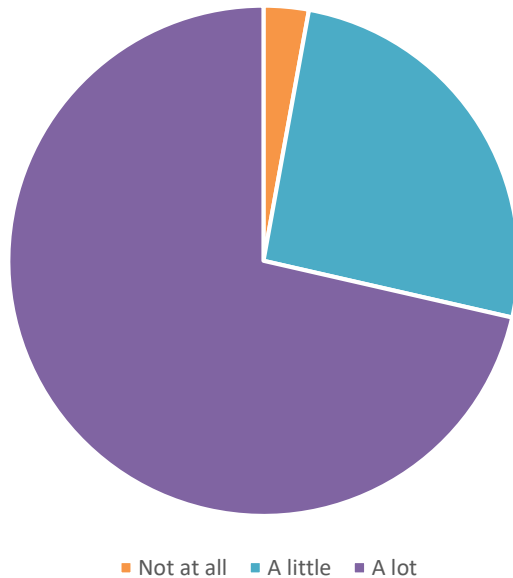
Have your communication difficulties affected the following?



Have your communication difficulties affected the following?



How much have communication difficulties affected your life?



71% of respondents said that communication difficulties have affected their life a lot, only 3% said it hadn't affected their life at all. Over 50% of people said it also affected their mood a lot.

# Speech and Language Therapy

How soon after your stroke did the speech and language therapy start?

- Within 48 hours 20%
- Within a week 31% **21%**
- Within a month 18% **44%**
- Within 2-4months 21% **30%**


Did you receive SLT

- 2008 96%
  - 2017 89%
- ↓
- 29% of respondents believed they had a delay in starting SLT, 14 people believed this was due to them being too ill and 11 people because of limited resources.

# Could you estimate how many sessions of speech and language therapy you received?

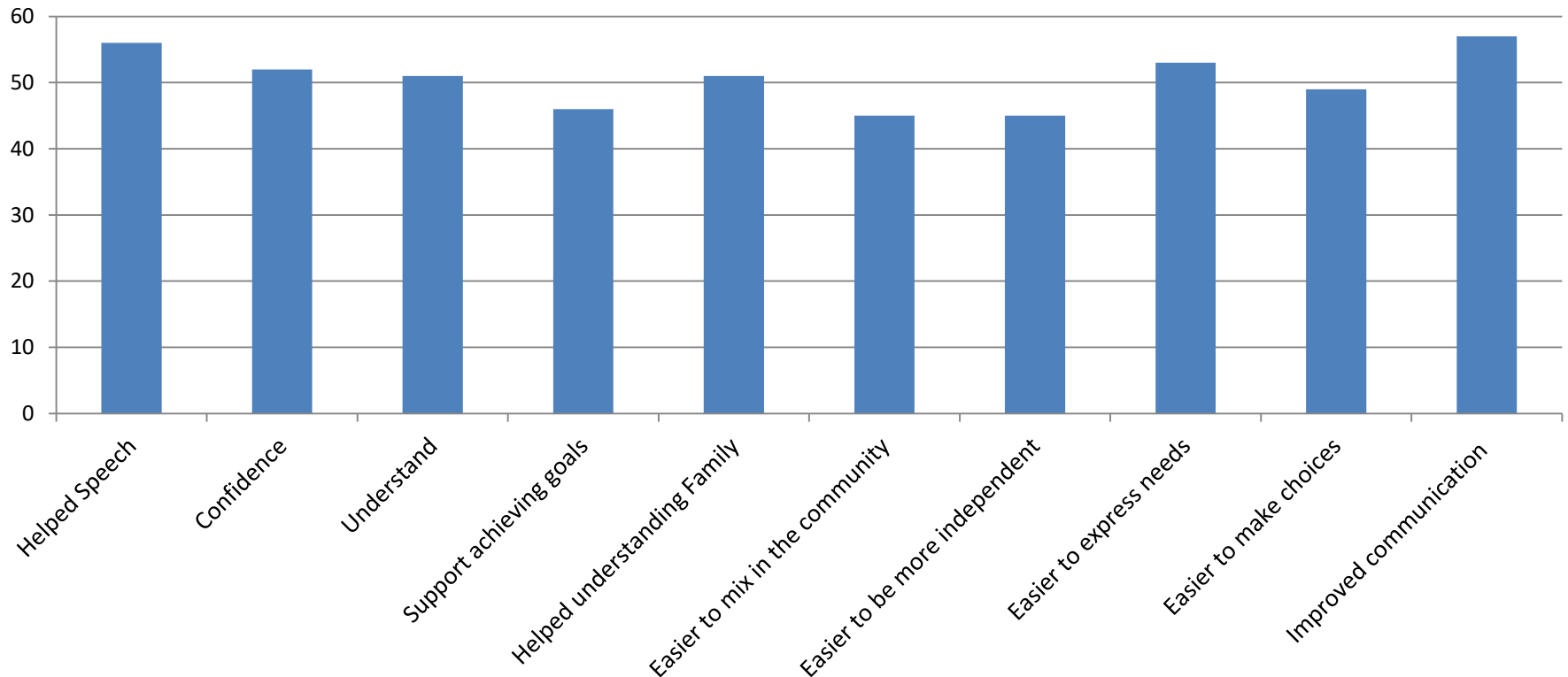
	Year	1-5 sessions	5-10 sessions	10+ sessions
<b>Hospital</b>	2008	42%	30%	28%
	2017	25%	1%	8%
<b>Home</b>	2008	24%	24%	52%
	2017	38%	3%	52%

- Only 30% of people were offered i-pad therapy.
- 7 day service- only 1 in 7 respondents were offered 7 day service, 41% of people would like therapy at the weekend while 59% do not want therapy at the weekends.

- How soon after stroke did your SLT stop?
  - 2017 By 3months 63%
  - 2008 By 3 months 52% 
- Are you happy with amount of SLT you received?
  - 1/3 are not happy with one to one (similar to 2008)
  - 70% happy with amount of group sessions (90% in 2008)



# Has speech and language therapy helped?



- Nine out ten (90%) of people believed SLT helped improve communication.
- This shows that interaction with family (85% of people) and community is helped by SLT (75%),three-quarters of people said SLT made it easier to be more independent.
- Importantly 84% of people believed made it easier to express their needs and 4 out of 5 people said it made it easier to make choices.

# Negative Comments

Thankfully the Stroke Assoc has helped. No NHS therapy

““No confidence in meeting anyone new”

“NHS SLT not enough after leaving hospital. Used private SLT helped but felt this should be provided on NHS.”

“I think there should be more speech and language therapy early on”

“

The S&LT is only on 21/2 days a week, and was in for 12 weeks. I only got her once a week.

“The people just forgot about me”

““Definitely not enough therapy. The therapist was working 2/12 days a week " After 12 weeks of therapy, I got no further help (a therapist retired and there was no replacement for many months). I got some private therapy after 8 months and after 12 months I got a second set of 12 weeks under NHS".

I would have liked more SLT as I feel it helped me. It is easy to slip backwards without the help. “

## Positive Comments

"The speech therapists have been outstanding"

"I have got invaluable help from all 4 of these groups encouraging me to get near to the person I was 10 months ago"

I look forward to go to my stroke centre as it is the best time of the week with all my lovely friends and associates, don't know what I would do without them

"Stroke Association group very helpful but not long enough."

From complete inability to speak, the 4 weeks in hospital produced a dramatic improvement due to the visit of the hospital speech and weeks of attendance by the NHS speech expert. I was able to deliver a speech at my daughters marriage four months thereafter."

My speech and Language therapist was very professional and hard working! I was very impressed with the strategies employed to improve my symptoms. The good training is evident in every session."

# In conclusion

- Survivors recognise the wide-ranging benefits of SLT
- Number of people receiving SLT has decreased, as has number of sessions in hospital
- SLT stopping sooner than 2008 but starting earlier