

RCSLT Outcomes Programme: Overview of the ROOT

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Background

- The Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT) is working to support its members to improve the collection of outcomes data and to assist with demonstrating the impact of therapy for individuals with speech, language, communication and swallowing needs
- A programme of work on outcomes was initiated in 2013 to respond to drivers internal and external to the profession (see slide 3)

The RCSLT Outcomes Programme

INTERNAL	EXTERNAL
Demonstrating the impact of SLT interventions	Outcome measurement not embedded - historical focus on inputs, processes & outputs
Contribution to local, regional & national outcomes	Use of terminology & definitions
Supporting service evaluation	Few validated outcome measures
Developing the evidence base	National policies and frameworks
Supporting business case development	Outcomes based commissioning

Background

- The RCSLT has developed and piloted an online tool to support the collection of Therapy Outcome Measures (TOMs) and is rolling out the use of the RCSLT Online Outcome Tool (ROOT) to the profession using a phased approach
- The RCSLT Outcomes Programme comprises other parallel work-streams as TOMs is not applicable across all clinical areas and settings (e.g. Public Health)

Outcomes Programme workstreams

National influencing and projects

RCSLT Online Outcome Tool

Measuring the impact of children's universal/targeted SLT services

Developing a set of core measures for each clinical area

The RCSLT Outcomes Programme – developing the approach

- RCSLT Board of Trustees opted for a pragmatic approach: identifying an existing outcome measure to begin to gather consistent data for the SLT profession
 - **Initial phase:** find an existing outcome measurement tool that will meet ‘best fit’ criteria agreed by members
 - **Subsequent phases:** identify how to fill gaps and look at other approaches (not defined in detail)

RCSLT members' 'best fit' criteria

Table one: The 11 criteria agreed for existing outcome measures at the October 2013 and subsequent RCSLT Hub meetings

1. Is it reliable?
2. Is it valid?
3. Is it suitable across key client groups?
4. Is training available?
5. Is it easy to access?
6. Is it easy and quick to use?
7. Is it compatible with existing tools?
8. Can it work with the main areas of SLT practice and current priorities?
9. Can it capture long term/ultimate outcomes?
10. Can it take account of different stakeholders' priorities for outcomes?
11. Can it capture the range of service elements provided: interventions, training, adaptations to the environment, universal level etc?

Therapy Outcome Measures Enderby and John (2015)

- TOMs scales address four dimensions of an individual in line with the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (WHO, 2007):
 - **Impairment** - the severity of the presenting difficulty/condition
 - **Activity** - the impact of the difficulty on the individual's level of independence
 - **Participation** – impact on levels of social engagement and autonomy
 - **Wellbeing** – impact on mental and emotional wellbeing
- Each dimension is measured on an 11-point ordinal scale with six defined descriptors, ranging from 0 (worst case scenario), to 5 (best possible presentation).

0	0.5	1.0	1.5	2.0	2.5	3.0	3.5	4.0	4.5	5.0
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With CD 
Therapy Outcome
Measures
for Rehabilitation
Professionals
Third Edition



Pamela Enderby and Alexandra John

• Revised
and Updated
• Now Includes 47
Scales
• Gives Examples
of Use

The RCSLT Online Outcome Tool

- The RCSLT Online Outcome Tool (ROOT) is being developed to support practitioners with:
 - Collecting and collating outcomes data using two methods:

Direct data entry

- Data is entered directly into the ROOT

Data upload

- Data collected in local electronic systems is exported and uploaded to the ROOT

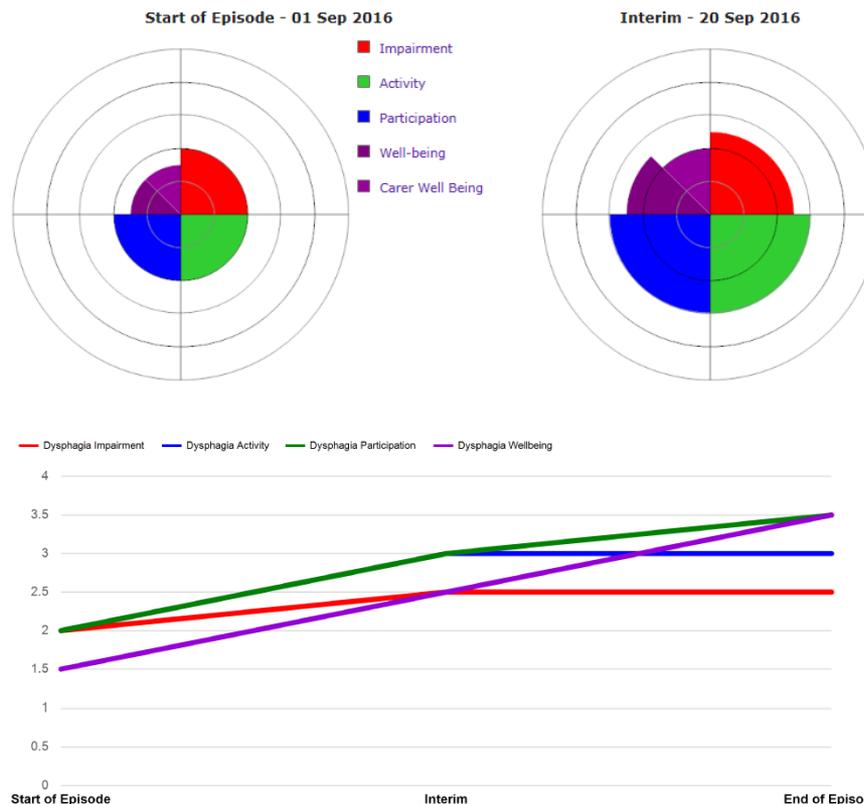
- Both methods enable speech and language therapists to access reports on the data

ROOT reports

SLTs can generate reports for individual service users under their care, showing the outcomes for the individual over time in association with SLT interventions



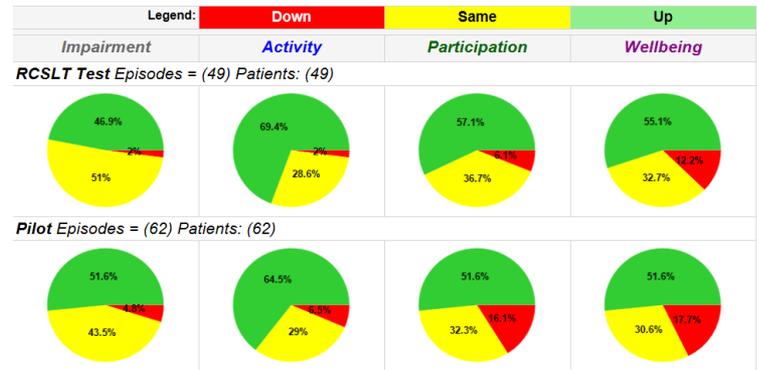
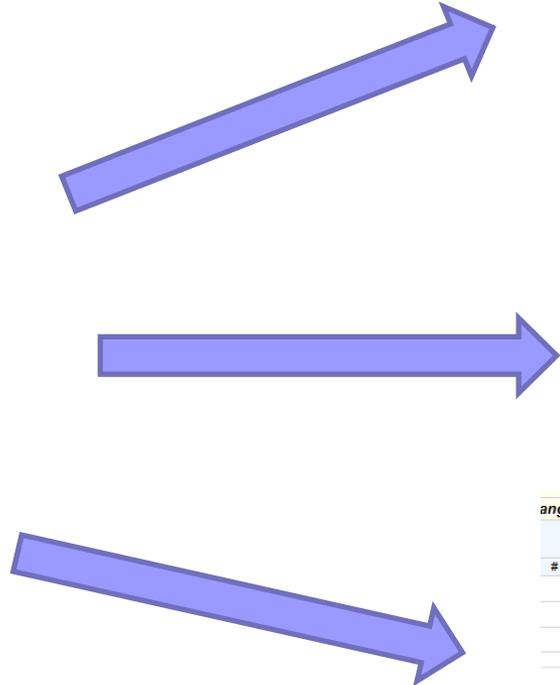
**Individual
service
user**



ROOT reports

- The ROOT also aggregates data collected across an SLT service and generates reports on groups of service users for that service to view
- Filters can be applied to the reports to enable the service to drill down to analyse the data at the required level for reporting purposes (e.g. age, condition, date range)
- Reports are anonymised and do not contain any information for fewer than 6 service users
- Benchmarking reports can be generated to enable the SLT service to compare their outcomes with that of the others involved in the pilot. Individuals services are not identifiable
- RCSLT has access to the anonymised service-level and national-level reports

Groups of service users



	Average Type												
All Toms Scales Episodes: (49) Patients: (49)	Mean	2.77	3.11	0.35	2.73	3.28	0.54	2.57	3.09	0.52	2.54	3.1	0.56
	Median	3	3	0.5	3	3.5	0.5	2.5	3	0.5	3	3	0.5
Cleft Lip or Palate Episodes: (8) Patients: (8)	Mean	2.94	3	0.06	3	3.25	0.25	2.69	3	0.31	2.81	2.88	0.06
	Median	3	3	0.25	3	3.5	0.25	2.75	3	0.5	3	2.75	0
Dysfluency Episodes: (10) Patients: (10)	Mean	3.15	3.5	0.35	3.1	3.4	0.3	2.5	2.95	0.45	2.55	2.95	0.4
	Median	3.25	3.5	0.75	2.75	3.25	0.25	2.5	3	0.5	2.75	3	0.5
Dysphagia Episodes: (23) Patients: (23)	Mean	2.33	2.72	0.39	2.33	3.04	0.72	2.2	2.93	0.74	2.13	3	0.87
	Median	2.5	2.75	0.25	2.5	2.75	0.75	2	2.5	0.5	2.25	2.75	0.75
Dysphonia Episodes: (8) Patients: (8)	Mean	3.83	4.17	0.33	3.75	4.08	0.33	4.17	4.08	-0.08	4.08	4	-0.08
	Median	3.75	4	0.25	3.5	3.75	0.25	4	3.75	-0.25	4	3.75	-0.25



Case study: Sample report

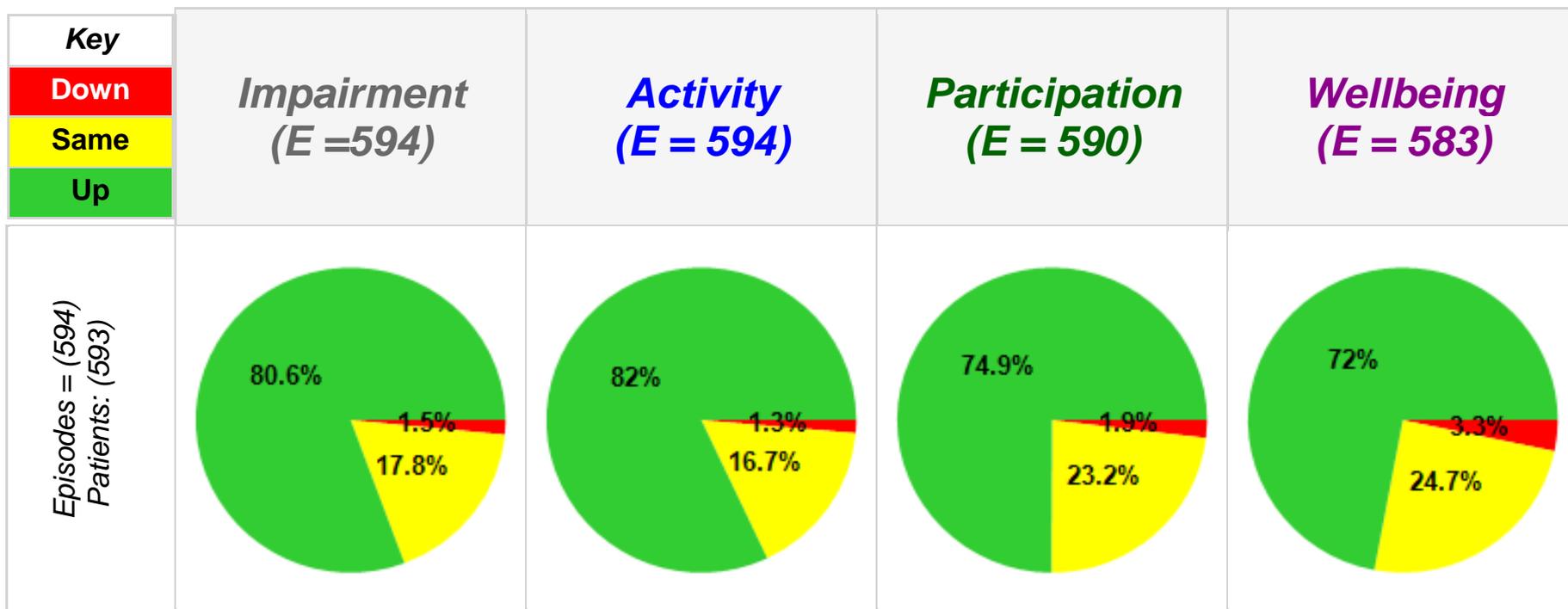


Figure 1: Report showing the direction of change in TOMs between initial and final ratings for children with language disorder accessing speech and language therapy between July 2009 and July 2018

Case study: Sample report

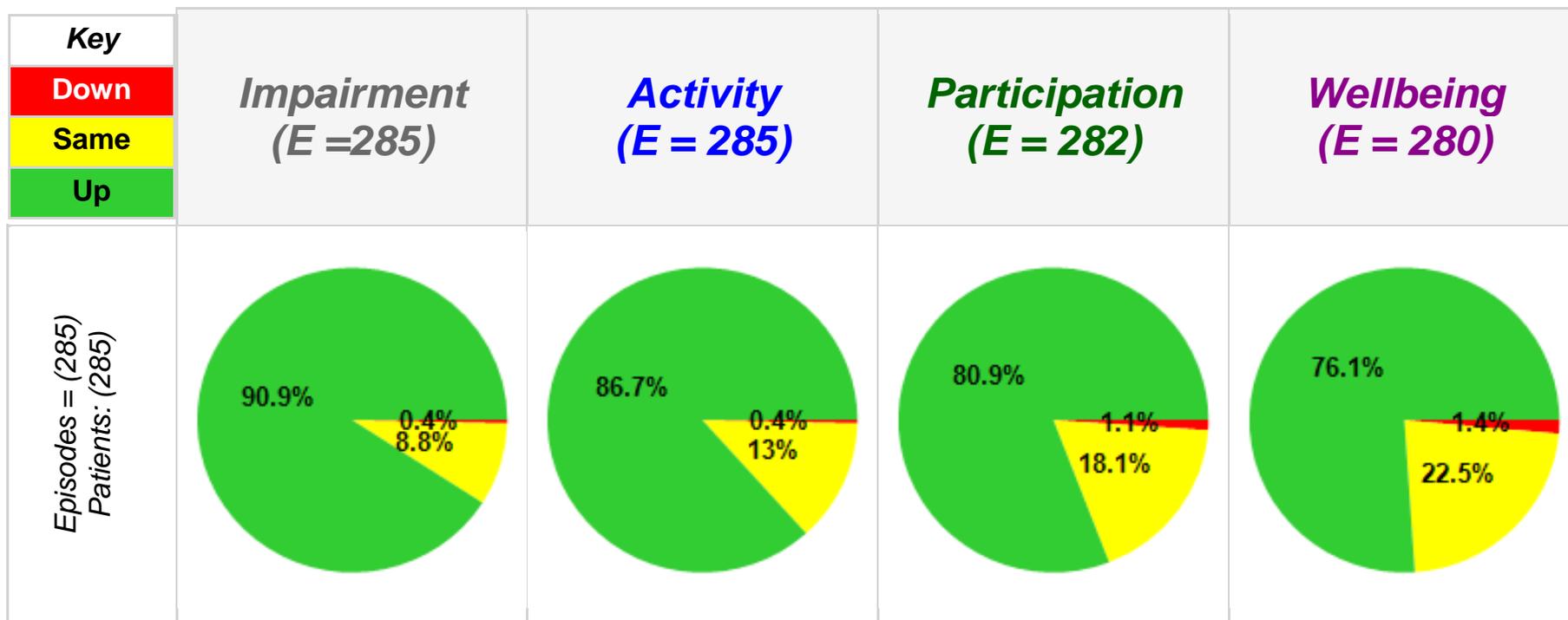
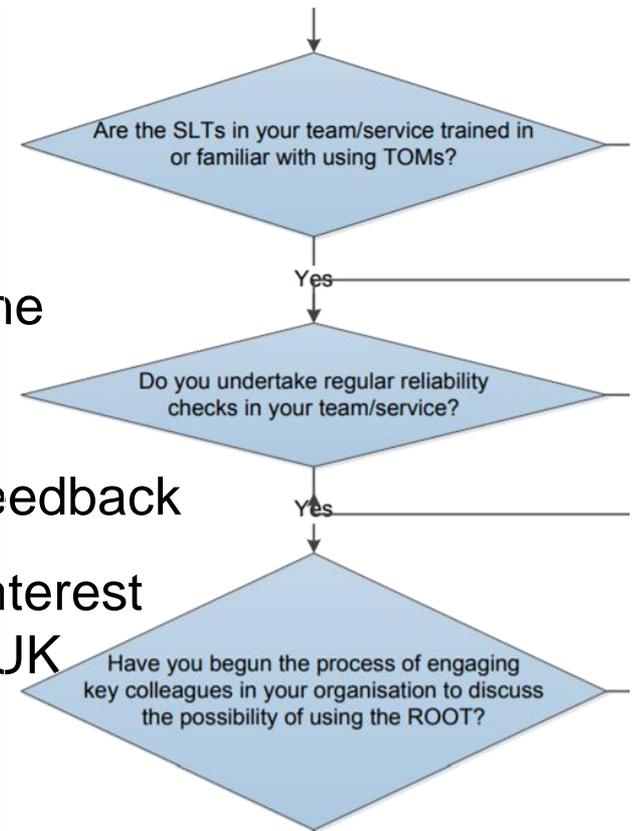


Figure 2: Report showing the direction of change in TOMs between initial and final ratings for children with speech sound disorder accessing speech and language therapy between November 2009 and November 2018

Where are we now?

- The RCSLT is rolling out the ROOT across the speech and language therapy profession using a phased approach while continuing to iterate the tool in response to feedback
- Over 100 SLT services have expressed an interest to date – includes SLTs services across the UK working in a range of clinical areas, settings and organisations
- Received a number of expressions of interest from other professions. Exploring access to the ROOT for other professionals.
- Supporting ‘early adopters’ to implement the ROOT in their service by working through a [flowchart](#) and continuing to develop and refine resources to support with implementation



For more information about the ROOT,
please contact:
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