



Sensational CENs: Making the most of your professional networks 25th April 2017, 13.00 - 13.45

Question and Answer

Registration questions

Lots of questions that came in before the webinar were on the same topic, so they've been grouped together in the answers below.

How to set up a CEN or link a national CEN with a local CEN

If you are interested in starting up a CEN, or have already set up a CEN and are looking for more information or resources, please do get in touch! The RCSLT would be more than happy to put local CENs in touch with national CENs, direct you to areas of the RCSLT website that will provide further information and resources, or find staff members that would be able to come out and speak at a CEN meeting or study day.

The best place to start is the RCSLT CEN webpages, found here:

https://www.rcslt.org/members/professional_networks/CENs/intro

Or email info@rcslt.org or hubs@rcslt.org

Tips on setting study days and building the audience

Top tips for CEN events:

- Look at the whole year – plan one or two study days and two or three committee meetings. Put them all in the shared calendar and stick to them.
- Once you have your calendar figured out, put all the dates on your local Hub's basecamp pages.
 - If you're a national CEN, feel free to email hubs@rcslt.org and we can add your meetings to all the Hubs' calendars – this will help decrease the chance that two CENs have meetings on the same day/too close together to get study leave.
- For your study days, ensure that you have robust aims and objectives published so that your delegates can make a good argument for study leave.
- Book a speaker for study days or big meetings
- Trying to link up with local academics and independent therapists will help strengthen the CEN network
- Linking up with the local Hub will help to advertise your event to the widest possible range of delegates

The RCSLT Hubs toolkit can be found via the link below, and has a wide range of templates and checklists to help you to run a great event:

https://www.rcslt.org/members/professional_networks/rcslt_hubs/event_toolkit

Basecamp

To log in to Basecamp, navigate here: <https://rcslt.basecampHQ.com/>

To request an account be set up in your name, please email hubs@rcslt.org

To request a new Basecamp group, please email info@rcslt.org

Basecamp resources

- Basecamp cheat sheet:
https://www.rcslt.org/members/professional_networks/basecampcheatsheet
- Basecamp guide:
https://www.rcslt.org/members/professional_networks/docs/basecamp_guide

If all else fails, please email hubs@rcslt.org or call Kaleigh on 0207 378 3005

Live questions/discussion

Does anyone have experience of using video conferencing to enable members of the CEN to join when they can't attend due to distance?

Skype is quite popular down south, but Scotland in particular is very well set up with VC - please do email hubs@rcslt.org for more resources.

Yes, we used VC at our Scottish study day last year, and had people joining us from 4 different places. Mostly successfully!

The main challenge was managing discussion time - the remote joiners could only hear if we passed the mic around, which wasn't so easy to maintain. I think we would get better at it with experience.

We have had colleagues from North Wales VC in but in practice they prefer to make the journey if they can as it's really challenging keeping the VC going for a whole day!

Many thanks to all the delegates who contributed to the Q&A!

For further information on Skype and VC, check out the RCSLT techipes, found here:

https://www.rcslt.org/members/professional_networks/rcslt_hubs/skype_techipe

https://www.rcslt.org/members/professional_networks/rcslt_hubs/video_conference_techipe

If possible could someone talk more about the help you might be able to provide regarding sourcing speakers?

There were lots of recommendations for sourcing speakers; if none of the points below work, email hubs@rcslt.org and we can think of alternative solutions:

- Approach a speaker who has done recent research into your area of interest (often their contact information is available via their research paper or institution).
- Consider speakers you have heard at recent RCSLT or AHP events.
- Get together with your local HEI to see if they have any research projects going on in your area of interest.
- Contact the RCSLT for support around research (getting involved in research, using the research centre, etc.) or current projects – we are more than happy to ask members of staff if they would like to go and present at your CEN study day
- Offer travel and accommodation expenses if necessary; some CENs may offer up to £50 as a speaker fee. Please do get in touch with the RCSLT if you have any questions about finances.
- If you're looking for best practice examples from other SLTs, put out a call on your local Hub basecamp pages!

When is the new website available?

There will be a test homepage going live in the next couple of weeks, then we're working towards having key systems set up (new website and new membership database) and some initial elements of the new website ready by Christmas.

Then we are using 'agile' delivery approach which means that we will be building new functionality and releasing them in phases - rather than building it all and going 'live' in one go. Key to all of this will be members testing and giving feedback throughout.