

Biographies



Della Money

Della Money is the Chair of the RCSLT Board of Trustees and Associate Director AHPs, Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust

Sessions:

AM Chair

Welcome and introduction

Lean On Me: Supporting your career journey - information, resources and networks and discussion session

Tell Her (or Him!) About It: What skills and knowledge will be in demand? Tips and Q&A: A guide to finding your first job

You're The One That I Want: Practical scenarios and discussion in finding your first roles
Plenary and close

Since graduating in 1986, Della has worked within services for people with learning disabilities. She has always been passionate about working in partnership with others to develop communication skills. Della developed the 'Means, Reasons and Opportunities' model for communication 30 years ago. This model now underpins multi-disciplinary and multi-agency services for children and adults across the UK and abroad. She achieved her PhD in 1997 and has been an adviser in learning disabilities for the RCSLT since.

Della was the lead author on the RCSLT Five Good Communication Standards (2013), as part of the Government's response to Winterbourne View. The Five Good Communication Standards provide a national platform for everyone to know 'what good looks like' in terms of communication. Della led on the RCSLT position paper Inclusive Communication and the Role of Speech and Language Therapy (2016). She has since been key to delivering inclusive communication and the Accessible Information Standard across her trust. Della is now the associate director for AHPs at Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust.



@dellamoney

My top tip for students becoming NQPs: Follow your heart – apply for jobs that excite you and seize the opportunities it brings.



Rebecca Simmons

Rebecca is a Community Paediatric SLT at London North West University Healthcare Trust

Sessions:

Ice Ice Baby: Your RCSLT National Student Study Day

I Will Survive: NQP panel

Rebecca has been working since August 2018 after studying speech and language therapy at Newcastle University. She was an active member of the speech and language therapy society, including as welfare officer on the committee, and participated in the Giving Voice campaign. Rebecca enjoyed all of her placements on the course, and chose her current job for the varied caseload it presented and the support and opportunities available for NQPs.

Rebecca currently works across the community school-aged and pre-school speech and language service. She works with children aged 1-11 years, in clinics, children's centres, nurseries, pre-schools and mainstream schools, including triage, assessment, individual therapy, group therapy and staff/parent training. Rebecca's caseload includes children with language difficulties/disorders, speech sound difficulties/disorders, deafness/hearing impairment, selective mutism, dysfluency and ASD/social communication difficulties.

Rebecca is passionate about raising awareness of SLCN and enabling others to support children with SLCN. She works closely with teachers, assistants, early years practitioners, parents and teachers of the deaf to ensure that her clients are supported across all of their daily environments. She is currently working towards her RCSLT newly qualified competencies.



@chatterbecks_18

My top tip for students becoming NQPs: Ask about the opportunities for support and supervision at your interview, and then make the most of them! Everyone requires different levels of support for different lengths of time – don't feel under pressure to get it right straight away and make the most of everyone else's experiences because it makes you part of the team!



Wrood Almutawa

Wrood Almutawa is a fourth year speech and language therapy student at City, University of London.

Session:

Ice Ice Baby: Your RCSLT National Student Study Day

Wrood has a special interest in working with adults with traumatic brain injury. For her final year dissertation she is working on evaluating the test-retest validity of discourse measures used with people with aphasia.



Kamini Gadhok MBE

Kamini Gadhok MBE is the CEO of the RCSLT

Sessions:

Lean On Me: Supporting your career journey - information, resources and networks

PM Chair

Prize draw

Plenary and close

Kamini has been chief executive at the RCSLT since December 2000. The professional body for speech and language therapists in the UK, the RCSLT provides leadership for the profession and supports improvements to services for people with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN).

Kamini's primary role is to help deliver service change by building strong partnerships with key stakeholders across government, charities, other professional bodies and the regulator. Over the years, she has been involved in a number of government initiatives and policy developments. This has included being an adviser to the Bercow review of services for children with SLCN, which continues to inform and impact on key government policies.

Kamini received an MBE in June 2009 for services to the allied health professions.

As a former speech and language therapist, Kamini had direct patient care responsibilities for 14 years and has experience of working with a range of client groups (children, older people, people with learning difficulties) across all ages in hospitals, community health centres, special schools and mainstream schools.

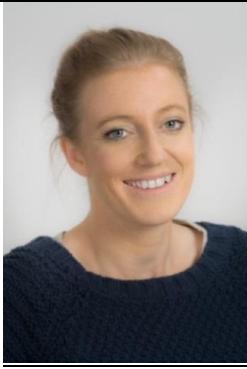
Prior to her move to London in 1997, Kamini had three roles in Nottingham Community Health (NHS Trust): as a locality manager, with responsibility for meeting the health needs of local populations across three inner city health areas; as locality coordinator for speech and language therapy services; and as specialist adviser (bilingualism) leading the development of services for people for whom English is an additional language. In this role, Kamini established the Asian bilingual co-worker service, the first of its kind in the country.

In 1997, Kamini became ethnic health projects coordinator for the NHS and was seconded to the Department of Health to set up the Race Equality Unit, where she was section head until 2000.



@Kgadhok

My top tip for students becoming NQPs: Join RCSLT CENs to help access peer support and hear about the latest evidence based practice



Lauren Longhurst

Lauren Longhurst is the research and development officer at the RCSLT

Session:

Supporting your career journey - information, resources and networks

Lauren currently leads on the RCSLT research priorities project in a number of clinical areas. She is involved with developing resources to encourage clinicians to use evidence-based practice and supports the research champion network. Lauren sat on the steering group for developing the new curriculum guidelines and NQP framework. Her particular interests are in developmental language disorder, patient and public involvement and bridging the clinician/researcher gap.

Prior to working at the RCSLT, Lauren worked as a paediatric speech and language therapist in mainstream schools and language resource provisions. She previously co-chaired the Mainstream Schools CEN (London and Eastern Region).



@RCSLTResearch

My top tip for students becoming NQPs: Having recently graduated you are in a great position to share information about the latest evidence and research that your colleagues may be unaware of. Don't be afraid to share this and challenge the status-quo.



Kaleigh Maietta

Kaleigh Maietta is the events and member engagement officer at the RCSLT

Session:

Lean On Me: Supporting your career journey - information, resources and networks

Kaleigh has been working at the RCSLT since 2014. She holds a BA in English language and literature from King's College London, and an MA in Public Policy from Queen Mary, University of London. Kaleigh's primary role is to support the UK-wide RCSLT Hubs communities and activities within the Hubs. She is passionate about building resilience and leadership capacity within communities and volunteer groups.

Prior to working at the RCSLT, Kaleigh worked for the NHS in various administration capacities and as a researcher and reporter for the Sambhavana Society in Mumbai.

Contact: kaleigh.maietta@rcslt.org



@RCSLTHubs

My top tip for students becoming NQPs: Don't worry about asking questions – no one expects you to know everything. Saying that, facing a challenge with a solution in mind will highlight your initiative.



Louise Borjes

Louise Borjes is a project coordinator at the RCSLT

Session:

Lean On Me: Supporting your career journey - information, resources and networks

Louise joined the RCSLT in 2016 and is responsible for developing professional guidance, mostly within conditions commonly related to adults and the elderly. Several of her projects relate to dysphagia, but she also leads on workforce projects relating to pre-registration education and the NQP period.

Before working at the RCSLT, Louise worked in think tanks producing analyses and recommendations of public policy initiatives to both UK and foreign governments. She holds a BA in English language and communication and an MA in European public policy, both from King's College London.

My top tip for students becoming NQPs: Don't sleep in the library - get involved! We love having students on our projects – you get a chance to shape speech and language therapy guidance that will support you in the future



Iona Sinclair

Iona Sinclair is a SLT working for Hertfordshire Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (HPFT), a mental health and learning disability trust

Session:

I Will Survive: NQP panel

Iona's role as an SLT in a learning disability and forensic team involves visiting service users in a variety of settings (such as residential homes, supported living accommodation, and day centers) and assessing their communication abilities and current levels of support. Working with a current caseload of 15 service users, Iona is involved in implementing communication aids (including high tech voice-output devices and low tech visual schedules) to enable service users to participate more actively in their daily lives. Iona works collaboratively with a range of other professionals, namely carers and support workers, to ensure that service users' communication is understood and facilitated by everyone they have contact with. This is achieved through the delivery of individualised communication training and the creation of communication reports and passports.

Iona is currently working towards completion of the NQP competencies; a process which is supported through regular meetings with her supervisor, and monthly peer-supervision meetings with fellow band 5 and 6 SLTs working within HPFT. In the future, she is keen to complete dysphagia training, having already received training and certification in Talking Mats and Makaton.

Outside office hours, Iona enjoys cooking, reading and running; she recently competed in a half marathon and raised over £800 for the National Autistic Society.



@SLTIona

My top tip for students becoming NQPs: Don't limit yourself – Take a chance! If your dream job comes up, apply!



Harriet Batambuze

Harriet Batambuze is a newly qualified SLT working at Blossom House School in London.

Session:

I Will Survive: NQP panel

Harriet has been working since March 2018 after studying speech and language therapy at De Monfort University, Leicester. She has always enjoyed working with children and worked as a teaching assistant for three years before she began training. This experience further developed into a passion for SEN after a third year placement in an SEN school setting.

Harriet presently works in a specialist independent day school for children aged 3-19 years which includes children who have speech, language and communication difficulties. She works with students aged 5-9 years with a varied case load including ASD, dyspraxia, global developmental delay, speech sound disorders and language disorders. Harriet enjoys working in a school because she is able to work collaboratively with teachers, occupational therapist and assistants.

She is presently working to complete her RCSLT newly qualified competencies.

My top tip for students becoming NQPs: *Phone up prospective jobs and ask them about the support they provide for NQPs, and say yes to every opportunity given to you.*



Eve Groarke

Eve is a SLT at Hesley Group

Session:

I Will Survive: NQP panel

Eve studied French and linguistics at undergraduate level before completing an MA in speech and language therapy at the University of Sheffield. During her studies, Eve worked as a carer for adults and children with autism and learning disabilities. This ignited her interest in working with people with learning disabilities and helped her to apply some of the theoretical knowledge she was learning. Eve took full advantage of voluntary opportunities in the university clinic as well as placements, gaining valuable skills with a range of client groups. She attended the RCSLT National Student Study Day in her final year and was inspired by the speakers on the day, which gave her confidence to apply for jobs early and then to apply to be a speaker herself for the RCSLT National Student Study Day 2018.

Eve currently works with adults with autism and learning disabilities in a residential village who also present with behaviours that challenge. Eve works closely as part of a multi-disciplinary team with occupational therapists, psychologists and behaviour therapists. She helps people to develop functional communication skills and supports care staff to communicate effectively with the people they support.

Eve completed NQP competencies eight months after starting work and she has recently completed a post-basic dysphagia course and is looking forward to further developing her skills in this area. In the future, Eve would like to continue working with adults and children with learning disabilities and hopes to be involved in research.



@eve_offline

My top tip for students becoming NQPs: *Believe in yourself – you already know so much. Always ask questions at interviews and in the job. Keep learning!*



Shermeena Rabbi

Shermeena Rabbi is the director and consultant SLT at Unlocking Language. She is also an ASLTIP Board member

Sessions:

Tell Her (or Him!) About It: What skills and knowledge will be in demand? Tips and Q&A: A guide to finding your first job

You're The One That I Want: Practical scenarios and discussion in finding your first roles

Shermeena graduated from De Montford University with a BSc in speech and language therapy in 2004. Her first role was a mixed one – three days in acute with adults and two days in a community paediatric clinic.

Shermeena works with children, adolescents and adults and has a portfolio of exclusive clients, which includes royalty, corporates and diplomats. She is a medico-legal expert in the field of adult acquired communication and swallowing disorders. She also treats paediatric developmental language delay and was involved in the setting up of a youth project for young people with SLCN with Afasic, which she ran for ten years. In addition, she has managed write papers and presented at conferences focusing on developing the social and functional skills of young people with social-communication disorders.

Her career has led her to various organisations, the NHS, private and charity sectors and she progressed her way up to managerial level in 2013 when she decided to take on some private work, leading to the creation of Unlocking Language.

Shermeena has always been interested in developing healthcare and looked at innovative models to deliver speech and language therapy. Her practice grew within the first year and by 2014, Unlocking Language had gained a strong reputation for delivery and she employed her first SLT.

Currently, Unlocking Language has 25 SLTs supported by an administrative team with the head office in Canary Wharf, London. Shermeena's dedication to learning, education and her profession has resulted in her practice focusing on strong mentorship of speech therapists and an internship programme for aspiring speech therapists. It is a multi-award-winning practice which has gained several recognitions over the past few years.

The fuel for her practice has been her passion for the power of communication and the empowering of people who has speech, language and communication needs. Her team are dedicated to providing thoughtful, personalised and evidence-based treatment, in a holistic, fun and functional environment.



@ULspeechtherapy

My top tip for students becoming NQPs: Think about organisation and time management systems and develop one that works for you. This allows you to be efficient with your clinical caseload and your administration and professional role.



Jo Lester

Jo Lester is the Locality Manager (North) and Clinical Lead SLT at Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and Hackney Learning Trust

Sessions:

Tell Her (or Him!) About It: What skills and knowledge will be in demand? Tips and Q&A: A guide to finding your first job

Jo qualified as an SLT in 2004 (Reading University) and for the majority of the time worked in Hackney ('The Children's Integrated Service for Hackney and the City'). Jo has held a number of roles during her time in Hackney and has worked in a range of settings including children centres, primary schools and secondary schools. She first started as a clinical lead/locality manager for Early year's role in September 2015. Since then she took on the position as clinical lead for specialist pathways which involved overseeing the service provided to children and young people requiring more specialist intervention such as those with severe DLD, speech, voice and fluency disorders.

Since February 2018, Jo has held the position of clinical lead for secondary schools and young people. In addition to this she leads the service for children and young people who stammer. Her role is varied and includes the responsibility of overseeing the provision to two Youth Justice services. Another key part of Jo's role is jointly managing a locality team of 20 therapists. Jo was lucky enough to have the experience of two secondment positions; working as a part time tutor at City University for a year (2012) and also working for a year full time at the Michael Palin Centre in 2015. She has always had a very keen interest in working with children and young people who stammer and hopes to continue working with this client group long into the future!

My top tip for students becoming NQPs: When you start your first job as an NQP, you will be learning many new things and taking on lots of new experiences- you can expect this to be interesting and exciting but also quite overwhelming so it's important to have reasonable expectations of yourself –remember that even in 10+ years time you will still be learning new things, so pace yourself, take your time and enjoy it!



Dharinee Hansjee

Dharinee Hansjee is the head of speech and language therapy at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust

Sessions:

Tell Her (or Him!) About It: What skills and knowledge will be in demand? Tips and Q&A: A guide to finding your first job

Dharinee has been a practising SLT for more than twenty years. In 2012, she completed an MSc in Advanced Practice Leadership at Kings College London and currently leads a dynamic speech and language therapy team at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust.

Dharinee is also one of the RCSLT's national advisers for dysphagia. She represents the RCSLT on number of external groups including a dysphagia and medicines advisory group and the guidance and resources subcommittee, working with NHS Improvement and RCSLT to improve outcomes for dysphagia. Dharinee also sits on an expert panel organised by NHS Improvement, and on a nutrition and hydration collaborative supporting NHS staff and the wider healthcare system on the development and implementation of improvement measures in clinical practice.

In the past Dharinee has worked with the Care Quality Commission in a specialist adviser role, inspecting health and social care services across London and the South East. Dharinee is also an honorary lecturer at City University (London). With a special interest in care of the elderly, she has delivered national/international presentations and has produced several publications on her work within the area of risk feeding.



@DharineeHansjee

My top tip for students becoming NQPs: With the complexity of healthcare today, we need to work in an integrated way. Work closely with your multidisciplinary team to achieve the best outcomes for the patient/service user.