

***Practice* Based Scenario**

**Adult client accessing NHS and independent therapy**

**About this document**

This document is designed to take you through a practice-based scenario to help you reflect on what you might do if faced with a similar situation. It can be used to guide your thoughts and prompt discussion with your colleagues. Working through this document counts towards your continuing professional development (CPD). Your reflections on this document are not assessed and you do not have to send your responses to the RCSLT.

You can work through it on your own, with a colleague or supervisor, or in groups, eg as part of an RCSLT Hub or Clinical Excellence Network.

This document is broken into five parts:

1. **The scenario:** for you to read
2. **The issues to consider:** for you to gather your thoughts on practice issues relating to this scenario
3. **Next steps:** for you to plan what you would need to do next
4. **Prompts for consideration:** RCSLT prompts for further consideration
5. **Sources of further information:** links to other relevant web pages
6. **Update your CPD diary:** for you to do
7. **The scenario**

**A client is attending NHS speech and language therapy for integrated rehabilitation therapy and also attends a group for social support and contact plus receives one to one treatment, both run by an independent SLT.**

**What, as a professional, should you be considering in relation to your client’s care?**

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**What do you do in this scenario if you are the NHS SLT?**

**What do you do in this scenario if you are the independent SLT?**

1. **The issues to consider**

**What do you need to consider?**

Think about the above scenario and its implications and jot down your notes about issues you may need to consider. Please feel free to use extra sheets of paper if you need. Or, if you are in a group, you may like to record on a whiteboard or flipchart.

1. **Next steps**

**What steps do you think you need to take next?**

1. **Prompts for consideration**

When working with a client who is also working with another SLT, it is important for you to work together in the best interests of the client. This might include sharing skills, knowledge and experience, as well as sharing relevant information, for the benefit of the client.

Colleagues should respect each other’s perspectives and contributions and where professional opinions differ, should maintain a professional approach.

It is recommended that you think about the following prompt questions and formulate a considered strategy to working collaboratively in the best interests of the client.

Remember that if you are faced with a similar situation you will need to think about it in relation to the frameworks within which you work, such as the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) Standards, RCSLT professional guidance and resources, local and national policies and policies of your employer (or your own policies if practising independently).

The following list of prompts will help with your thinking.

Please note that this list is not exhaustive and does not constitute legal advice.

**Prompt questions to consider**

1. Are there any issues around information sharing?
2. Do you have consent from your client to share information?
3. If you are employed by the NHS, what is the policy of the local employing organisation regarding sharing of information and consent?
4. If you are practising independently, do you have a consistent approach around information sharing and consent that you can provide if required?
5. How can you work together in a way that is patient-centred and in the best interests of the service user?
6. Are there issues about duty of care?
7. How will you manage the situation if there is a difference in opinion i.e. conflicting therapy goals/therapy approaches/priorities/diagnoses?
8. How will you agree how to measure the client’s progress and outcomes of your treatment?

**Possible next steps**

1. Ensure that your record keeping and information sharing follows a consistent approach, in line with any local policies, where applicable.
2. Discuss with the client the importance of collaboration when having more than one SLT involved in their care.
3. Discuss the importance of information sharing and obtain consent from the client to share information with the other SLT. See [Consent](https://www.rcslt.org/consent) and [Information governance](https://www.rcslt.org/delivering-quality-services/information-governance). Liaise with the other SLT to share the targets for therapy from both providers, and to ensure that they complement each other and support an overall agreed outcome for the client.
4. Consider setting joint therapy goals with the other SLT, if appropriate/beneficial to the client’s care
5. Agree a system or process for regularly sharing relevant information in line with relevant local policies where applicable.
6. Make sure you leave a clear document trail of discussions and agreed targets and outcomes.
7. Discuss the situation with your support network – this may include your supervisor or line manager if applicable.
8. Seek advice from ASLTIP and RCSLT if required.
9. **Sources of further information**

**The following information in the professional accountability and autonomy, and professional guidance sections of the RCSLT website is also particularly relevant:**

1 – [Promote and safeguard the interests of service users and carers](https://www.rcslt.org/cq_live/service_user_interests/service_user_interests)

2 - [Communicate appropriately and effectively](https://www.rcslt.org/cq_live/communication/communicate_appropriately_and_effectively)

3 - [Knowledge and skills](https://www.rcslt.org/cq_live/Knowledge_and_skills/knowledge_and_skills)

4 - [Delegate appropriately](https://www.rcslt.org/cq_live/delegate_appropriately/delegate_appropriately)

5 - [Respect confidentiality](https://www.rcslt.org/cq_live/respect_confidentiality/respect_confidentiality)

9 – [Be honest and trustworthy](https://www.rcslt.org/cq_live/be_honest_and_trustworthy/be_honest_and_trustworthy)

10 - [Record keeping](https://www.rcslt.org/cq_live/record_keeping/keep_records_of_your_work)

[Duty of care](https://www.rcslt.org/cq_live/resources_a_z/care/overview)

[Information governance](https://www.rcslt.org/cq_live/resources_a_z/info_gov/overview)

[Outcome measures](https://www.rcslt.org/members/outcomes/RCSLT_outcomes_project)

[Collaborative working](https://www.rcslt.org/collaborative-working)

[Consent](https://www.rcslt.org/consent)

[Confidentiality](https://www.rcslt.org/confidentiality)

**Contacts:**

[Association of Speech and Language Therapists in Independent Practice (ASLTIP)](https://www.helpwithtalking.com/Default.aspx)

[RCSLT Adviser](https://www.rcslt.org/members/professional_roles/advisers/intro)s

1. **Update your CPD diary**

Working through this scenario counts towards your continuing professional development (CPD). Once you have completed this scenario, please record this learning and your reflections in your CPD diary.