

Bercow: Ten Years On

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Bercow: Ten Years On – 1st Anniversary Update



- 1st anniversary update published on 6th March
- 17 of 47 recommendations achieved
 - but five areas where more action is needed:
 - Joint commissioning
 - Support for long term SLCN
 - Professional development
 - Incentivising schools
 - Vulnerable groups



Bercow: Ten Years On – 1st Anniversary Update

The Bercow: Ten Years On report put provision for children's speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) in the spotlight. It described a fragmented system, which fails many children and young people with SLCN by not identifying their needs early enough, or putting in place effective support.

The report made 47 strategic recommendations aimed at decision-makers, accompanied by a range of practical, online resources to support people to take action, which can be found at www.bercow10yearson.com

In March 2019, one year on from the launch of the report, significant progress has been made: 17 recommendations have already been completely achieved, and several others are in progress.

Children's early language is high on the Government agenda, but for school-aged children, and those with long-term SLCN such as developmental language disorder, there has been little change. Progress in establishing a strategic approach to planning and commissioning support across the age range for children with SLCN is limited. Given the numbers of children and young people with SLCN, and its impact on their life chances, urgent action is needed.

THE SIZE OF THE ISSUE

10% of all children have long-term speech, language and communication needs.

This includes **7.6%** of children who have developmental language disorder.

Yet only **3%** of school pupils are identified with SLCN as their primary need (4.1% in primary schools and 1.4% in secondary schools).

Only **14%** of pupils with identified SLCN have an education, health and care (EHC) plan.

THE GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

- Theresa May responded to a question at Prime Minister's Questions, committing to look very carefully at the report and respond.
- In response to a petition on the Parliament website, the Government stated that it is firmly committed to ensuring that children with SLCN receive the support they need to reach their full potential.
- A joint written response by the Education and Health and Social Care Departments to Bercow: Ten Years On reiterated that the Government is determined to help put in place the right framework of support for children with SLCN.

"We do not want to see any child held back from achieving their potential, and that includes ensuring that children with speech, language and communication needs are given the support they need."

Theresa May, Prime Minister's Questions 21 March 2018

THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

- 1** parliamentary debate
- 2** meetings with ministers
- 17** recommendations fully achieved
- 80+** parliamentary questions answered
- 11,622** signatures on the petition calling on the Government to implement the recommendations in the report
- 21,983** posts on Twitter using the #Bercow10 hashtags

Dear Prime Minister...



- A letter to the PM calling for urgent action to improve support for children and young people with SLCN
- Signed by more than 60 organisations



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Media

- A national press release using findings from YouGov survey of parents and carers:
 - 59% of parents of children and young people with SLCN have to fight to get support for their children's difficulties
 - More than half have to wait longer than six months to get support
- A trade press release focused on the letter to the PM
- Media coverage included: Sky News Radio, Sunday Mirror, The Sun, Times Education Supplement, and Nursery World

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Social media

- Launched two new hashtags and encouraging people to share photos and video clips in which they pledge to **#SpeakUpForCommunication** and **#SpeakUpForSLCN**
- A Twitter campaign running through to July
- Get involved – visit http://bit.ly/bercow10_anniversary



Developmental Language Disorder

Lauren Longhurst
Research Officer

Today



- A brief overview of the changes to terminology and diagnostic criteria
- A local example
- Discussion session- where are you at?
- Current and planned RCSLT work

What has changed and why?



■ Specific Language Impairment (SLI) → Developmental Language Disorder (DLD)

- In the past, terminology has been variable and confusing
- There has been a lack of research funding for SLI in relation to frequency and severity and terminology used in research is inconsistent (Bishop, 2010)
- SLI was often used in a way that does not align with clinical reality
- Strict discrepancy criteria has led to difficulties with equitable provision of services. A non-verbal IQ score is no longer required for a diagnosis, meaning DLD includes a broader range of children than those that would have met criteria for a diagnosis of SLI

CATALISE

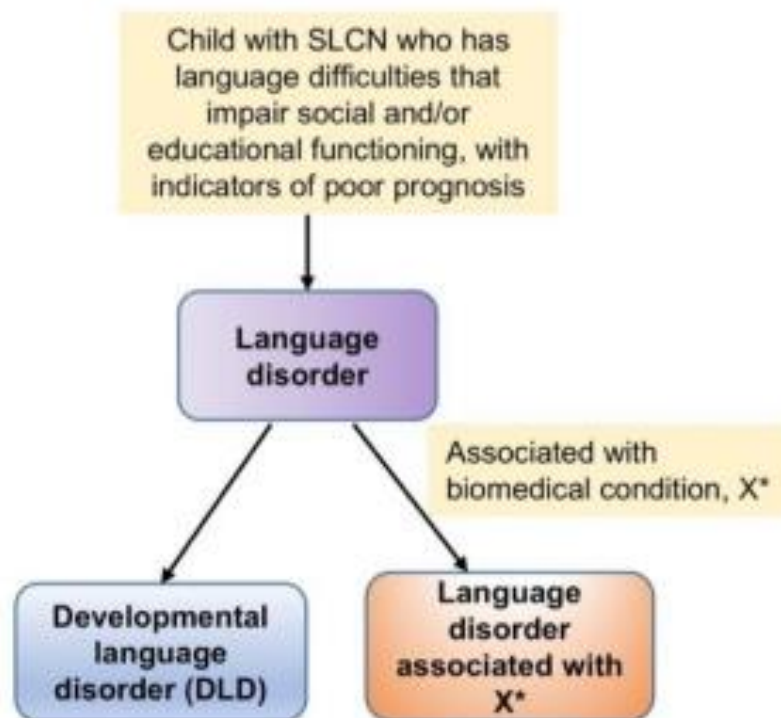


Criteria and Terminology Applied to Language Impairments: Synthesising the Evidence

- Group of 57 experts in children's language disorders from English speaking countries including:
 - Speech and language therapists
 - Education
 - Medicine
 - Psychology
 - Audiology
 - Charities



Aim: to seek consensus on identifying children requiring support above and beyond what is available in the classroom



*includes genetic syndromes, a sensorineural hearing loss, neurological disease, Autism Spectrum Disorder or Intellectual Disability

■ Co-occurring disorders:

- ADHD
- Motor skills
- Literacy
- Speech
- Exec. Function
- Behaviour
- Adaptive behaviour

Risk factors:

- SES
- EAL
- Family history
- Neglect/ abuse
- Prenatal/perinatal
- Male

■ Bishop et al.

(2016)

The term Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) should be used for children where...



1

The child has language difficulties that create barriers to communication or learning in everyday life



2

The child's language problems are unlikely to be resolved by five years of age



3

The problems are not associated with a known biomedical condition such as brain injury, neurodegenerative conditions, or chromosome disorders



DLD diagnosis should be accompanied
with specification of the **impact** on
domains of:

1 Phonology



4 Semantics



2 Grammar (syntax
and morphology)



5 Word finding



3 Verbal learning
and memory



6 Pragmatics/
language use



Many symptoms persist into
adolescence and beyond

**Assessments by an
SLT are needed to
identify how DLD is
affecting an
individual's...**



Communication

**Social
participation**

Wellbeing

Learning

What does not meet criteria for developmental language disorder?



- Late talkers with few indicators of poor prognosis
- Poor phonological awareness as a stand alone difficulty
- Children learning more than one language, unless there is evidence of meeting DLD criteria in their home language

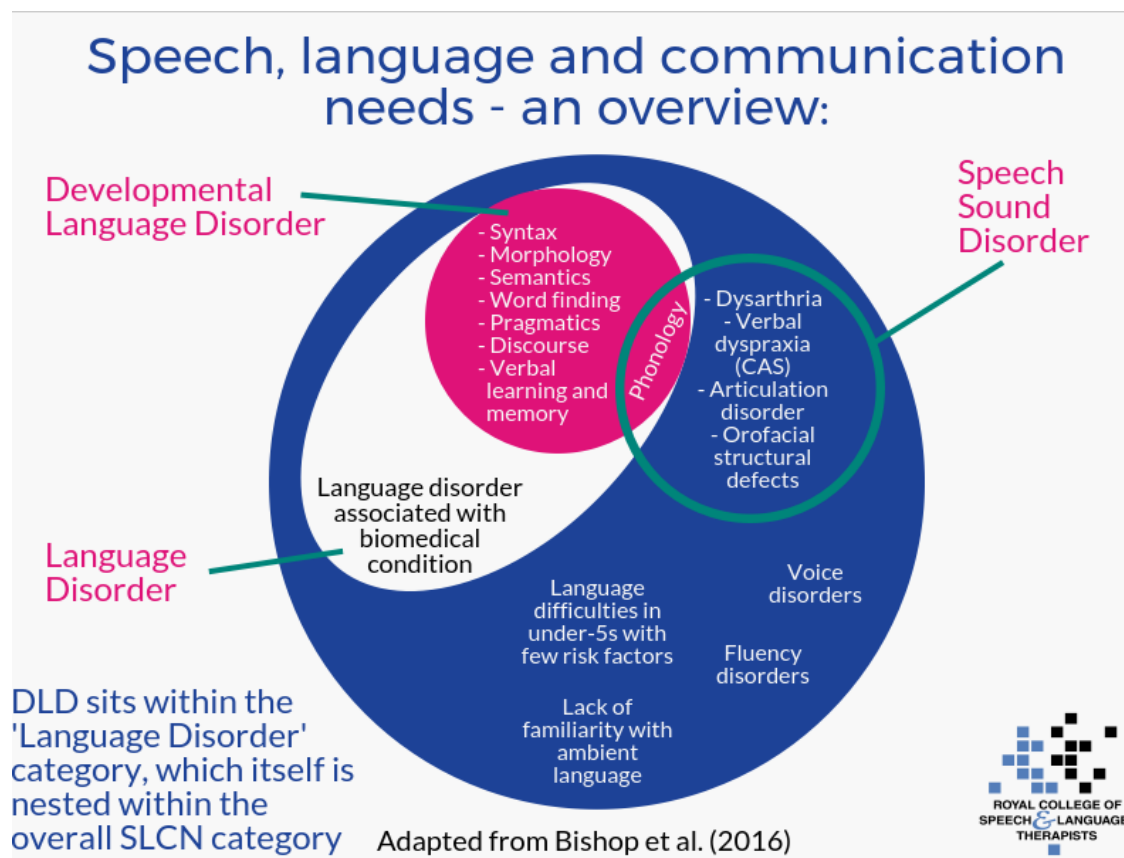
So how does this all fit together?

7.58%

(Norbury et al. 2016)

9.92%

(Norbury et al. 2016)





SLI = DLD



All children with an existing
SLI diagnosis meet the criteria
for Developmental Language
Disorder



Implications for service delivery



- Changes will take time to implement
- The degree of change will depend on local circumstances
- Access to services currently is variable
- Terminology clarification can potentially help with planning services, data collection and outcome measurements
- SLTs should continue to work in partnership with other professionals, ensuring that the children and families' perspectives are central to decision-making and goal-setting
- Services may need to adapt current resources/training materials to reflect terminology changes

(RCSLT, 2017)

Discussion session



- Where are you at?

I didn't know about the new terminology and criteria and I am still using SLI	
	We have already implemented the new terminology and diagnostic criteria

- Successes
- Barriers

RCSLT resources



- Clinical webpages with evidence and research section
- RCSLT briefing paper
- FAQs document
- DLD factsheet
- Powerpoint presentation for training purposes
- Webinar

Related and future work



- Research priorities project
- Story telling project
- Children's strategy work
- Bercow: Ten years on
- Outcome measures programme of work
- Terminology work via. SNOMED CT
- Liaising with government
- DLD factsheet
- System leader roundtable event
- Collection of resources