



#GeneralElection19: RCSLT toolkit for candidate engagement



YOU CAN ask candidates to run communication-accessible campaigns.

YOU CAN ask them to pledge to #SpeakUpForSLCN and #SpeakUpForCommunication.

YOU CAN share the [RCSLT's manifesto asks](#).

Before you begin:

- Check if your work setting has guidance on engaging with candidates and check for any purdah guidance – this may affect what you can do in work time.
- Monitor @RCSLTpolicy and @GivingVoiceUK for the latest updates.
- If you're in Scotland, Wales, or Northern Ireland:
 - Parties that do not stand candidates in England are unlikely to include wording in their manifestos relating to England in respect to devolved matters such as health and education. These areas will be included in manifestos for the devolved elections scheduled for 2021.
 - Asks related to communication-accessible campaigns are appropriate throughout the UK.

If you have a spare 5 minutes:

- Ask candidates to run a communication accessible campaign via social media using the hashtags: #SpeakUpForSLCN & #SpeakUpForCommunication.
- Share the RCSLT's [top tips](#) and [manifesto asks](#) with candidates on social media, and ask them to work to implement the asks if elected.

If you have 10-15 minutes:

- If you are approached by a candidate, start conversations about the RCSLT's manifesto asks and the role of speech and language therapy in general.
- Write to or email your local candidates using our [template letter](#).
- Ask candidates to pledge to #SpeakUpForSLCN and #SpeakUpForCommunication.

If you have half an hour:

- Attend a local hustings event.
- Ask candidates will they will do if elected to ensure people with communication and swallowing needs get the speech and language therapy support they need.
- Seek a meeting with your candidate to discuss the manifesto asks, the role of speech and language therapy, and what they will do if elected to ensure that people with communication and swallowing needs get the speech and language therapy support they need.
- Ask candidates to pledge to #SpeakUpForSLCN and #SpeakUpForCommunication.

If you need any help or advice, please contact peter.just@rslt.org