Bristol Speech and Language Therapy Research Unit

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Director, BSLTRU
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Thirty years ago.....
Today!
Aim

To improve the care and management of people with speech, language and communication disorders by developing knowledge related to the prevention, management and social consequences of the disorders.

Team

Director, SLT & Linguistics Research Associates/Secondments (x7), SLT NIHR Fellows (x4), Health Psychologist (Research Fellow), Administrator

Established specialisms:
• Speech Sound Disorder
• Cleft Palate
• Primary Language Delay
• Stuttering
• AAC

Emerging specialisms:
Unexplained dysphagia; Head and Neck Cancer; Awake Craniotomy
Children with speech sound disorder (SSD)

- Largest group referred to NHS speech and language therapy
- At risk for poor life outcomes in terms of education \( (Anthony \ et \ al, \ 2011) \) and employment \( (Felsenfeld \ et \ al, \ 1992, 1994) \)
- 47 different interventions for SSD \( (Baker \ and \ McLeod, \ 2011) \)
- Therapy for SSD sometimes delivered by SLTAs or TAs
Aim
What is the estimated impact of SLT led versus assistant led intervention for children with SSD on outcomes in speech?

Method
Casenote audit
Results

• Compared outcomes for:
  – 128 blocks of intervention delivered by SLTs
  – 22 blocks of intervention delivered by SLTAs/TAs

• Outcome data available:
  – 17 blocks within 1 month of end of intervention
  – 30 blocks within 3 months of end of intervention

• Outcome data comparable for only 7 blocks:
  – 6 SLT
  – 1 SLTA/TA
Outcomes work with RCSLT

• Agree a core outcomes set for SSD
• Agree a minimal dataset for
  – Intervention
  – Confounding factors
• Start to collect data at pilot sites
• Identify best outcomes relative to
  – Types of intervention
  – Patterns of service delivery
• IMPACT – evidence to support selection of intervention and to campaign for different model of service delivery for SSD
Opportunities

ICA
HEE/NIHR Integrated Clinical Academic Programme

“A pre-masters “clinical research taster”

“An introduction to clinical research theory and practice”

“Obtain a PhD by research whilst still developing clinical skills”

“Combine post-doctoral research in an academic position with continued clinical practice”

“Combine research and research leadership in a senior academic position with continued clinical practice”

Trainees Coordinating Centre
Ways to engage with us on social media

https://www.facebook.com/BSLTRU/

@Bristol_SLTRU

https://www.linkedin.com/company/bristol

Bristol Speech and Language Therapy Research Unit

http://bsltru.blogspot.co.uk/

BSLTRU Underwood Trust Annual Lecture
Spring 2020
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https://www.nbt.nhs.uk/bristol-speech-language-therapy-research-unit/