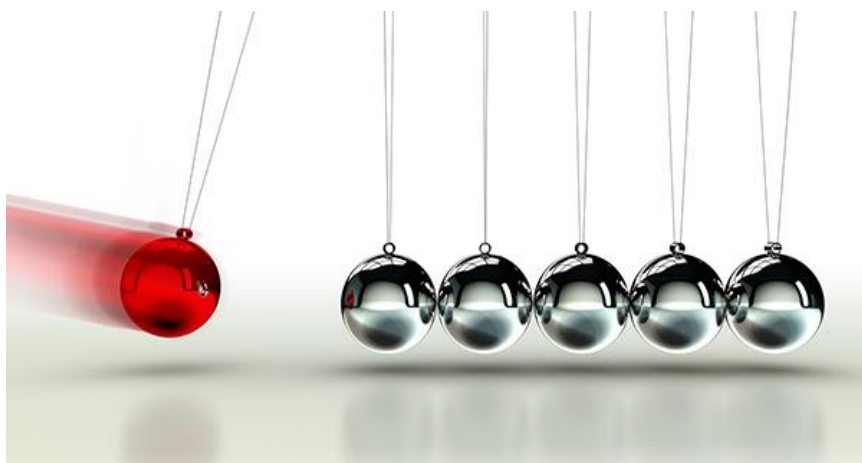


# Policy and Public Affairs (PPA) Team: Impact report



October 2018 –  
September 2019



# Who are our key stakeholders?



- Government ministers and officials
- Parliamentarians and Assembly Members
- Arms length bodies
- Local government representatives
- Service users and service user organisations
- Professional bodies across education, health, care and justice
- RCSLT members

# The year in numbers



- **Four** meetings with UK and Scottish Government Ministers
- **17** recommendations achieved from Bercow: Ten Years On
- **50+** early adopters of Communication Access UK
- **62** organisations signed letter to Prime Minister Theresa May
- **84** parliamentary questions asked
- **589** responses received to apprenticeship consultation
- **1,356** new followers for @GivingVoiceUK Twitter feed
- **2,468** subscribers to the RCSLT Weekly Monitoring Bulletin

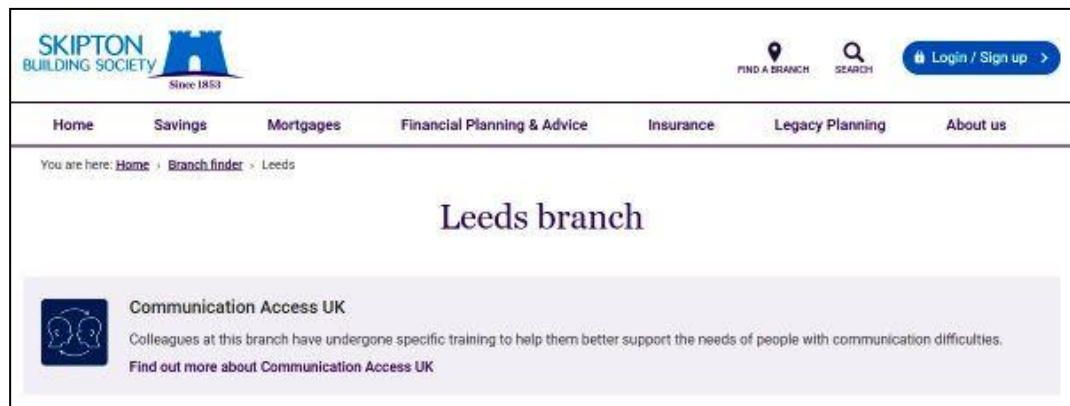


# The PPA priority areas



- 1. Communication access and inclusive communication**
- 2. Mental capacity**
- 3. Towards a diverse profession**
- 4. Apprenticeships**
- 5. Role of SLT in advanced and consultant practice**
- 6. Early language**
- 7. Children's services**
- 8. Learning disability and autism**
- 9. Mental health**
- 10. Behaviour**

# 1. Communication access and inclusive communication



## Activities:

- Symbol design agreed for early adopters phase
- Trainers – mostly RCSLT members – have been convened from across the country
- Developed monitoring framework and theory of change
- Roll out of symbol and standards as part of early adopters phase

## Impact

The communication access symbol has been adopted by organisations across a range of sectors, including:

- Skipton Building Society
- Health Education and Improvement Wales
- Stroke Association NI

A meeting has been held with Scottish Government regarding the Communication Access project.

## Inclusive communication in Scotland

- **Activity:** Supporting implementation of first Inclusive Communication legislation in the UK.
- **Impact:** An SLT is advising on cross organisational development planning and roll out.

*In 2019 Head of Scotland Office Kim Hartley Kean was awarded the Inclusive Communication 2019 Award by service user organisations and partners.*

Health Education and Improvement Wales leads the way to improve communication disability access in Wales



## 2. Mental capacity



### Northern Ireland

**Activity:** Secured a seat for an RCSLT representative on the mental capacity educational programmes project regional steering group and nominated an additional RCSLT representative as a project officer to influence the implementation of the Mental Capacity Act (NI).

#### **Impacts:**

- SLTs are included as a named assessor in the Mental Capacity Act guidance documents issued by the Department of Health.
- Information on communication support has been included in the mental capacity training packages produced by the Clinical Education Centre.

### England and Wales

#### **Activities:**

- Worked with members to develop amendments and briefings for readings of the Mental Capacity (Amendment) Bill across both houses.
- Provided formal written evidence to the Bill Committee, tabled parliamentary questions and briefed MPs.
- Meetings with Department of Health and Social Care Policy Leads and Chief Social Worker for England.
- Sitting on the expert group developing the Mental Capacity Code of Practice.

#### **Impacts:**

- RCSLT's key messages were read in the House by parliamentarians of all parties.
- Supportive quotes from Ministers on the role of SLTs in the new model.
- Positive verbal and written feedback from Minister for Care Caroline Dinénage.

You have highlighted that the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists has said that the list of professionals should include such therapists and that all professionals carrying out assessments should have speech and language training so that they can identify communication issues and provide individuals with appropriate support. I agree that assessors must be appropriately skilled if the assessments are to be of the high quality needed and look forward to exploring this over the coming weeks. We will also continue to engage with the Royal College on the issue of speech and language training.

I hope I have been able to provide you with clarification regarding the points you raised and that I have been able to reassure you that the government is committed to ensuring that the new system works for those with Speech and Language difficulties.

Yours sincerely,

**CAROLINE DINENAGE**



# 3. Towards a diverse profession

## UK-wide

Activity	Impact
Workshops to bring together SLTs, HEIs and student to discuss careers and diversity issues	Support generated for next steps
Webinar on diversity in the SLT profession	Disseminated outcomes of workshop resulting in positive engagement and feedback
Contributed to Office for Students (OfS) research about gender in AHP professions	Researchers spoke to male student SLTs, ensuring the speech and language therapy voice was heard at the OfS
Purchase and analysis of SLT student data	Strengthened case in response to Augar review and NHS Long Term Plan discussions

## Two of NI's 10 male speech and language therapists on rewards of the job

Of the speech and language therapists working in Northern Ireland, only 10 are male — equivalent to just over 1%. Una Brankin meets two of the men and finds out why the job is so rewarding



## Northern Ireland

- **Activity:** Secured two-page piece in the Belfast Telegraph featuring two male SLTs.
- **Impact:** Increased public awareness of SLT, raising profile of SLT as a career option for men.



# 4. Apprenticeships

## England

**Activity:** Promotion of consultation on SLT degree apprenticeship and consideration of responses.

### Impact:

- 589 responses received – Skills for Health said this was a high number which demonstrated effective consultation.
- Each duty in the standard was supported by an average of 90% of respondents.
- The apprenticeship standard and end point assessment have now been approved, and implementation can begin.
- Five universities are interested.

## Wales

- **Activity:** Members engaged in developing the Level 4 Apprenticeship Therapy Assistant Practitioner role.
- **Impact:** Members are directly involved in developing new roles in the NHS.



The RCSLT is delighted that the speech and language therapy degree apprenticeship standard in England has been approved.

### Speech and Language Therapist (Degree)

Close x

This apprenticeship standard is approved for delivery.

This occupation is found in a variety of contexts, including the NHS, local authorities, voluntary, community, and social enterprise sector (VCS) organisations, the education and justice sectors and in independent practice. Speech and Language Therapists (SLTs) are regulated by the Health and Care Professions Council and are uniquely qualified to provide speech, language, communication and eating, drinking and swallowing therapies. They work in many settings, including hospitals, nursing homes, in the community, within charities, schools, and peoples' homes. There are opportunities throughout your career to specialise and move into leadership, training and research roles.

Route: Health and Science

Funding £ (Max): 25,000

Reference: ST0618

Typical length: 48 months

Notes:

Skills for Health is facilitating this Trailblazer

Level: 6

Links:

- [News/updates](#)
- [Organisations involved](#)

Status: Approved



1. Proposal Approved
2. Standard Approved
3. EPA Plan Approved
4. Funding Band Assigned
5. Training Provider Registered
6. EPAO Registered

STANDARD

ASSESSMENT

SEARCH PROVIDERS

CONTACT



# 5. Role of SLT in advanced and consultant practice



## England

### Activities:

- Set up senior leaders group to inform Health Education England (HEE) work
- Responded to HEE work streams on Advanced Clinical Practice (ACP)
- Published a position statement on ACP

### Impact:

- RCSLT views have been fed in as development progresses.
- Members representing the profession on a number of ACP working groups.

## Scotland

- **Activity:** Workshop on ACP organised with Scottish Government ACP Workforce Lead.
- **Impact:** Increased understanding of process for development.
- **Activity:** RCSLT reps appointed for NHS Education Scotland Advanced Practitioner Working Group.
- **Impact:** Ensures SLT input to Advanced Practitioner role.

## Northern Ireland

- **Activity:** Attended launch of AHP Advanced Practitioner Framework.
- **Impact:** SLT showcasing advanced practitioner roles currently in NI.



# 6. Early language

## England

- **Activity:** Worked with Public Health England (PHE) and Institute of Health Visiting on a new training programme for health visitors in speech, language & communication.
- **Impact:** By March 2020 1,000 health visitors will be trained using materials that have been quality assured by SLTs.
- **Activity:** Advised Department for Education (DfE) on development of their national campaign to improve the home learning environment, Hungry Little Minds.
- **Impacts:** DfE policy document recognises role of SLT in supporting children's early language development, and that 10% of children have long-term SLCN requiring specialist help.

## Northern Ireland

- **Activity:** Delivered workshop on early language development at the NI Childminding Association annual conference.
- **Impact:** This workforce has no formal access to CPD so this training was needed and well received.
- **Activity:** Hosted Early Years Language Forum with key stakeholders including Libraries NI, Save the Children and PHA.
- **Impact:** Developed shared vision and mission statement, to feed into manifesto asks.
- **Activity:** Makaton training for key third sector stakeholders
- **Impact:** Key stakeholders recognise communication as everyone's business and have basic signing ability.



### 5 baby talk tips from a Speech and Language Therapist

Speech and language therapist Sinead Campbell gives her top tips for talking to babies.



*The RCSLT continues to support the BBC's Tiny Happy People campaign, which is due to launch across the UK in early 2020.*

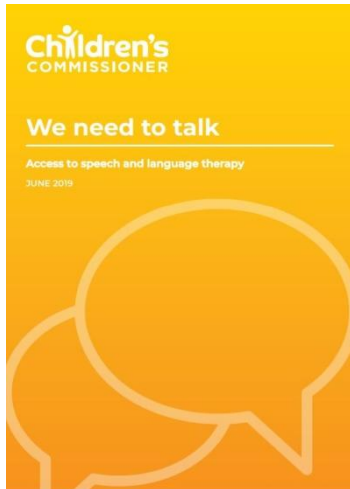
## Wales

- **Activity:** Briefing note for Welsh Government officials on our position on early language development at the request of civil servants.
- **Impact:** The Welsh Government will soon publish an Early Years Strategy for speech, language and communication (SLC).
- **Activity:** Early years meeting with Julie Morgan AM, Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services.
- **Impact:** Welsh Government is keen to second an SLT to work across all early years departments and deliver the forthcoming Welsh Government Early Years Strategy for SLC.

## Scotland

- **Activity:** RCSLT invited to send a representative to the Ministerial Early Learning and Child Care Quality Reference Group.
- **Impact:** Ability to influence the Early Years Framework and Early Years Workforce competency framework and training.

# 7. Children's services



## England

### Activity:

- Working with the office of the Children's Commissioner to inform the development of their report on access to speech and language therapy.
- Issued policy statement and promotion through social media.
- Produced resources to support members to influence locally.

### Impacts:

- RCSLT quoted in a number of national news stories – CEO and member TV appearances.
- Meetings with officials at the Department of Health and Social Care to discuss SLCN policy.
- Members have secured meetings with Chief Execs and been appointed to task and finish groups.



## Northern Ireland

- **Activity:** Hosted regional CYP workshop looking at children's services across NI.
- **Impact:** CYP services in NI are planning to implement big system change based on the RCSLT's guidance on placing children and young people at the heart of delivering quality services. Further events are planned by managers.

## Scotland

- **Activity:** Joint attainment event with Scottish Government.
- **Impact:** 100 SLTs and educators from across Scotland came together to share practice to improve outcomes for children in speech, language and communication.

# 8. Learning disability and autism



## England

### Northern Ireland

- **Activity:** Presentation at the ASD All Party Group at Stormont.
- **Impact:** ASD All Party Group to write to Department of Health on RCSLT's behalf to raise the issue around the need for SLT workforce in CAMHS and justice settings.
- **Activity:** Responded to request from the Public Health Agency and the Health and Social Care Board ahead of regional ASD SLT service scoping.
- **Impact:** Professional body standards are included.

### Wales

Activity	Impact
Produced joint briefing with other royal colleges for plenary debate on Autism Bill, highlighting our concerns.	Joint briefing was referenced numerous times by AMs and the Minister. The bill fell at stage one and will not progress further.
Evidence to Welsh Government consultation on code of practice for autism services.	Increased AMs' knowledge of autism.

Activity	Impact
Responded to Government consultation on introducing mandatory training for all health and care professionals in autism and learning disability awareness.	Government has confirmed that mandatory training will be introduced, and the consultation response highlighted the need for training to support better communication.
Members advised the Children's Commissioner on how to consult with young people with learning disabilities and / or autism in inpatient mental health settings.	Final report includes several references to communication needs and SLT. The Children's Commissioner will be chairing an independent oversight board on this issue.
The RCSLT has been involved in a number of other workstreams in learning disability and autism for which we are awaiting the outcomes.	

### Scotland

- **Activity:** Responded to Independent Review of Learning Disability and Autism in the Mental Health Act
- **Impact:** Supported calls for a human rights based approach and the removal of learning disability and autism from the definition of mental disorder.

# 9. Mental health

## UK-wide

- **Activity:** Attended Emerging Minds research priorities workshop with expert member.
- **Impact:** Funding available for research into prevention of mental health problems in children and young people who experience “communication challenges.”

## England

- **Activity:** Working with HEE to influence the development of the national mental health workforce plan.
- **Impact:** HEE agreed to fund further work to develop the AHP model in mental health.
- **Activity:** Meeting with NHS England programme leads on CYP mental health.
- **Impact:** Increased understanding of value of SLT in CAMHS amongst key staff at NHS England.
- **Activity:** Responded to NICE consultation for social, emotional and mental wellbeing in primary and secondary schools.
- **Impact:** Equality impact assessment recognises children with SLCN as a group to be given special consideration.

## Northern Ireland

- **Activity:** Responded to Sinn Fein request for briefing on mental health.
- **Impact:** Our message can influence the political landscape.

## Scotland

- **Activity:** Supporting RCSLT Representative on Scottish Government / COSLA CAMHS taskforce
- **Impact:** SLT role and impact communicated, in order to influence the implementation of CAMHS Strategy going forward.



RCSLT policy @RCSLTpolicy · 10 Oct 2018

On [#WorldMentalHealthDay2018](#) did you know that 81% of children with emotional and behavioural disorders have unidentified language difficulties? Check out the [#RCSLTfactsheet](#) for more info [bit.ly/2IMXVDs](https://bit.ly/2IMXVDs) [#AHPsDebate](#) [#MentalHealth](#)

81% of children with emotional and behavioural disorders have unidentified language difficulties.



[#WorldMentalHealthDay2018](#)

Source: Hollo A, et al (2014), article in Exceptional Children.



104

71



*Throughout the year we have been raising awareness about the links between mental health, communication and swallowing through social media; our top tweet on World Mental Health Day 2018 made 14,000+ impressions.*



# 10. Behaviour

*A factsheet on the links between communication and behaviour was published in January 2019; the tweet below received 15,900 impressions and more than 900 engagements.*



Behaviour is communication. With massive thanks to our members who helped us with this (@Melaniespeechie & @semhcn) we are delighted to be unveiling our new @RCSLT #RCSLTfactsheet on understanding the links between #communication & #behaviour. [bit.ly/2MpFhmZ](https://bit.ly/2MpFhmZ)



Speech and Language Therapy transforms lives



## Understanding the links between communication and behaviour

**B**ehaviour is communication. Many children and young people who have behavioural difficulties, including many of those with social, emotional and mental health needs (SEMH), also have speech, language and communication needs (SLCN). These needs often go unrecognised because behaviour can mask a child or young person's difficulties with communication. Speech and language therapists play a key role in supporting children and young people with behavioural



7:30 am · 31 Jan 2019 · TweetDeck

View Tweet activity

90 Retweets 89 Likes



### Wales

- **Activity:** Coached SLT through interview for AHP consultant post
- **Impact:** SLT appointed as Consultant AHP for Dementia.

### England

- **Activity:** Exhibited at the National Association for PRUs and Alternative Provision (PRUsAP) conference. Our communication factsheet was included in delegate packs for all 250 attendees.
- **Impact:** Increased awareness of links between SLCN, behaviour and exclusion amongst leaders and professionals working in alternative provision (AP) settings.
- **Activity:** Meetings with Department for Education officials to discuss the links between SLCN, behaviour and school exclusion.
- **Impact:** Approached AP settings with SLT input with a view to DfE officials visiting in 2020.

### Scotland

- **Activity:** Working with stakeholders on development and implementation of Youth Justice SLC Action Plan.
- **Impact:** Scottish Government sponsored national stakeholder events to establish local SLT / whole system collaborative approaches to speech, language and communication.

*In 2017/18 the RCSLT submitted evidence to the review of school exclusion and, as part of the review, attended a round table event chaired by Edward Timpson on exclusions and SEND. In May 2019 the Timpson Review of School Exclusion recognised SLCN as an underlying cause of poor behaviour, and recommended that expert training should be a mandatory part of initial teacher training.*

**Recommendation:** To support the school workforce to have the knowledge and skills they need to manage behaviour and meet pupil needs, DfE should ensure that accessible, meaningful and substantive training on behaviour is a mandatory part of initial teacher training and is embedded in the Early Career Framework. This should include expert training on the underlying causes of poor behaviour (including attachment, trauma and speech, language and communication needs), and strategies and tools to deal effectively with poor behaviour when this arises.

# Other key impact areas



- NHS Long Term Plan (England)
- Northern Ireland Stroke Strategy
- International work
- Developmental Language Disorder (DLD)
- NHS Staffing Act in Scotland
- Augmentative and alternative communication (AAC)
- Northern Ireland Cancer Strategy
- Workforce
- Primary Care
- Public Health
- Justice

# Influencing government policy



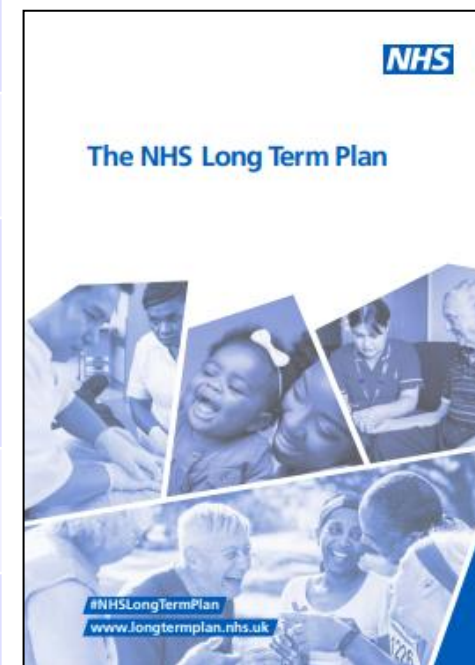
Activity	Impact
<b>Northern Ireland:</b> Submitted detailed response to NI DoH consultation on reconfiguration of stroke strategy - drawing on local case studies, expert member working group and the Stroke Association.	Ensured reciprocal sharing of key messages and influenced responses from Stroke Association and AHPF NI to include our messages in their responses as well.
<b>England:</b> Worked with MoJ to develop consensus on use of visuals in the prison estate.	MoJ has started to roll out use of pictorial information across the prison estate during 2019.
<b>Northern Ireland:</b> Wrote letter with AHPFNI to Chief Nursing Officer at the Department of Health raising concerns that AHPs were not part of cancer steering group.	Secured seats for SLTs on several cancer working groups
<b>Wales:</b> Involved in all stages of developing the new ALN legislation.	ALN legislation informed by views of SLTs.
<b>Scotland:</b> Meeting held with Scottish Government regarding local authority funding.	Scottish Government is funding a review of SLT services using the Balanced System to identify gaps in provision.
<b>Wales:</b> Attended Welsh Government meeting on new guidance on transition for children and young people in health settings.	Draft transition guidance has been published with SLT input.
<b>England:</b> Meetings with Ministers in Health and Education department to lobby for recommendations in Bercow: Ten Years On.	Received two letters from the Government: one in October 2018 signed by DfE & DHSC ministers and one in June 2019, signed by DfE, DHSC & MoJ ministers.

*In 2017/18 RCSLT Scotland took the lead in AHPFS influencing of Health and Social Care (Staffing) (Scotland) Bill – in June 2019 the Act passed, providing the first every statutory definition of multi-disciplinary teams and introducing a duty to consider multi-disciplinary staffing tools when developing a new or revised staffing level tool – the Head of RCSLT Scotland received personal thanks for her work from the Cabinet Secretary for Health.*

# Influencing other policy



Activity	Impact
<b>England:</b> Lobbying and engagement with NHS England on the development and implementation of the NHS Long Term Plan.	Long Term Plan includes two mentions of speech and language therapy. RCSLT representation secured on a number of groups including the NHS People Plan and the CYP Transformation Programme Stakeholder Council.
<b>Wales:</b> Head of Wales Office met with Health Education and Improvement Wales to discuss workforce trends.	Informed student commissioning numbers and inputted into HEIW's Workforce Strategy.
<b>Wales:</b> RCSLT members met with Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) to discuss ESTYN/CIW revised guidance handbook for inspecting care and education in regulated non-school.	Training is due to be delivered to inspectors. CIW inspectors will have a better understanding and appreciation of children's early language development and will be able to recognise good practice within childcare settings which can then inform the inspection ratings.
<b>England:</b> Influenced scope of NICE guidelines on rehab after traumatic injury	Scope includes identification, assessment and treatment of both communication and swallowing problems. SLT appointed to guidelines committee.
<b>England:</b> Engaged with development of RSPH, PHE and NHSI social prescribing framework for AHPs.	New AHP framework contains examples of how SLTs contribute to social prescribing.
<b>Scotland:</b> Adult Leads Network published leaflet on role of SLT in primary care.	Increased understanding of SLT role in community settings.
<b>England:</b> Responded to consultation on NICE guidance for adults with cerebral palsy.	Inclusion of SLT in list of 'networks of care' and as 'relevant clinical specialist'
<b>England:</b> Input to new AHP public health strategy and impact report on previous strategy.	Role of SLT in public health is better understood.



# Political engagement



Activity	Impact
Produced briefing for Northern Ireland Affairs Committee on stroke.	The issue of stroke strategy delay was raised at the committee.
Meeting with Sian Gwenllian AM, new Plaid Cymru spokesperson for education.	Plaid Cymru are briefed on the importance of early language and ALN.
Responded to SEND inquiry report through written and oral evidence.	Committee report mentions RCSLT evidence several times and identifies speech and language therapy as a particular challenge.
Co-ordinator of AAC collaborative – overseeing development and implementation of shared influencing workplan.	Two parallel survey reports to be debated in Scottish Parliament in March 2020.
Arranged meeting with National Assembly for Wales Health and Social Care researchers with other AHP policy leads	We now have key contacts in the Assembly Committees, who we can contact when a relevant piece of legislation is going through the Assembly scrutiny processes.
Responded to Scottish Parliament's Health Committee Inquiry on the future of primary care, including providing oral evidence on behalf of the AHPFS.	Support for the development of AHP leadership.
Responded to Justice Committee inquiry into the ageing prison population.	RCSLT evidence published in the committee website.
Submitted evidence to Oracy APPG Inquiry	Increased awareness among parliamentarians of the needs of children with SLCN in relation to oracy education.
Produced briefing for debate on the impact of government policy on knife crime	Baroness Hamwee praised RCSLT briefing during the debate.



# Stakeholder engagement



Activity	Impact
RCSLT and International Communication Project partners held event at the United Nations.	First event highlighting communication as a human right at the UN Conference of State Parties to the Convention for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The event was broadcast globally and we engaged with numerous NGOs and governments in attendance.
Designed, organised and ran the autumn meeting of the Aphasia Alliance, focussing on work and technology: facilitators and barriers.	Positive feedback from stakeholders
Working with a range of charities and professional bodies to campaign for better access to high quality community rehabilitation.	Produced a joint community manifesto briefing
Engagement with NICE including meeting with Director and field team.	Improved working relationship with NICE.
Meeting with RightCare Programme Lead to discuss joint working with RCSLT	SLT embedded into RightCare workstreams and clinical pathways.
Delivered training to Ofsted and CQC inspectors who carry out Local Area SEND Inspections at their national conferences in London and Manchester.	Inspectors recognise importance of SLCN across types of SEND and know how to challenge areas around their SLCN provision.
Met with Scottish Care CEO	Agreed joint workplan to raise awareness of SLT role and impact among Scotland's 6,000 care home and homecare providers.



# Campaigning activity



Young **Welsh** comedy talent tickled ribs to take **Voice Box** ...

**Wales247** (press release) - 4 Apr 2019

The Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT) showcased the best of **Wales'** young comedy talent at its **Voice Box** joke ...



Campaign	Activity	Impact
#SpeakUpForSLCN and #SpeakUpFor Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Used 1st anniversary update of Bercow: Ten Years On to highlight areas where urgent action is needed to improve support for CYP with SLCN.</li> <li>More than 60 organisations joined forces to write to Prime Minister to urge the government to take action.</li> <li>Chairs and Co-Chairs of APPGs also wrote to the PM.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Media coverage including TES and CYPNow.</li> <li>Engagement on social media throughout Feb and March – the hashtags are still being used.</li> <li>Joint response received from DfE, DHSC and MoJ.</li> </ul>
Voice Box – Westminster	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>18 pupils competed in the final at Westminster with Nick Smith MP acting as the Master of Ceremonies. 11 MPs attended</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Many MPs tweeted about the event.</li> <li>11 items of media coverage including two BBC radio broadcasts.</li> </ul>
Voice Box - Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>13 AMs attended a Voice Box drop-in event at the Senedd, including the Minister for Children and Cabinet Secretary for Education.</li> <li>Voice Box event held on 3 April 2019 hosted by Deputy Presiding Officer. Six AMs attended.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Helped develop our relationship with the Education Minister, and increased all AMs' awareness of SLCN. Follow up requested by Mark Isherwood and Julie Morgan AMs.</li> <li>National Wales TV News coverage and much local press - increased relationships with the Welsh media.</li> </ul>
Factsheets	New factsheets developed on behaviour, developmental language disorder (DLD), upper airways disorders and how the Five Good Communication Standards can support children and young people in care.	Factsheets have been well engaged with on social media and members have requested copies to support their local campaigning activity.

# PPA team ambitions for 2019/20



- Responding to changes to the UK parliament and government, funding landscape and Brexit.
- Workforce and NHS changes including integration
- Inclusive communication
- Diversity and careers
- Primary care
- Mental health
- Mental capacity
- Support for children with SEN / ASN / ALN
- RCSLT's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- Buddy Chat – improving inclusion through a co-produced project with primary school children in NI.
- Devolved elections 2021