

RCSLT AND THE GENERAL ELECTION 2017

RCSLT is actively engaged with the other allied health professions in proactively contacting those writing the General Election manifestos. RCSLT is also already planning its post-election engagement with new and continuing MPs and ministers.



RCSLT members

RCSLT has also produced resources to support members who are approached by candidates or who wish to proactively contact candidates themselves during the election campaign.

N.B. If you wish to contact candidates in your professional capacity, rather than on a personal basis, before doing so, you should check if your employer has any policies relating to this.

Key ask of candidates

RCSLT suggests members ask candidates to support **better lives for people with communication and swallowing needs**.

Candidates can do this by pledging to:

- **campaign for the provision of speech and language therapy services locally** across all relevant care pathways to ensure that people with communication and swallowing needs receive the support they need;
- **support and demonstrate inclusive communication** to ensure that those with communication needs are able to communicate in the way that suits them best.

What are speech, language and communication needs?

[RCSLT's factsheet on speech, language and communication needs](#) will support members to respond to candidates' queries about what communication needs are.

Members can also share [top tips with candidates on how to communicate with people with speech, language and communication needs](#).

What are swallowing needs?

[RCSLT's factsheet on swallowing needs](#) will support members to respond to candidates' queries about what swallowing needs are.

Handout for candidates

RCSLT has produced a handout that members can give candidates. It includes details of:

- top tips to care for and project their voices – great advice when candidates will be doing so much public speaking!
- what speech and language therapists do
- who benefits from speech and language therapy
- statistics about the prevalence of communication and swallowing needs
- the economic impact of speech and language therapy
- the Five Good Communication Standards
- top tips on communicating with people who have communication needs

The handout can be downloaded here: [Top tips on caring for and projecting your voice](#)

More information

Contact peter.just@rcslt.org for more information or advice.