



Accessible (Easy Read) 18 years and over survey: descriptive data and analysis of the survey findings

There were 7 responses to the adult (18 years and older) accessible survey (Easy Read). For some questions, responses were received from all 7 respondents. For other questions, responses from a smaller sample of less than 7. The number of respondents completing each question is given in the description of the results. The design of the survey meant for some questions respondents were able to select more than one option, often selecting 2 or 3 responses. The descriptive results are described in detail for each question.

The questions and the results are grouped into five sections and the questions addressed in each section are given.

- Section 1 gives the demographic data about the respondents who completed the survey.
- Section 2 describes the respondents' background history of receiving SLT.
- Section 3 describes the respondents' experiences of SLT during lockdown (March to June 2021).
- Section 4 describes the delivery of SLT during lockdown (March to June 2020) and the respondents' experiences of this.
- Section 5 details the respondents' experiences of SLT during and after the end of lockdown.

The quantitative descriptive data is given along with the qualitative data. Qualitative data originates from the free text comments for some of the questions. These comments have been grouped into categories for ease of reference.

Section 1: Demographic data of the respondents

The demographic data is presented first. This data was obtained from the following questions:

Question 1: What is your postcode?

Question 2: Which country do you live in?

Question 3: Please tell us who you are.

Question 30: How old are you?

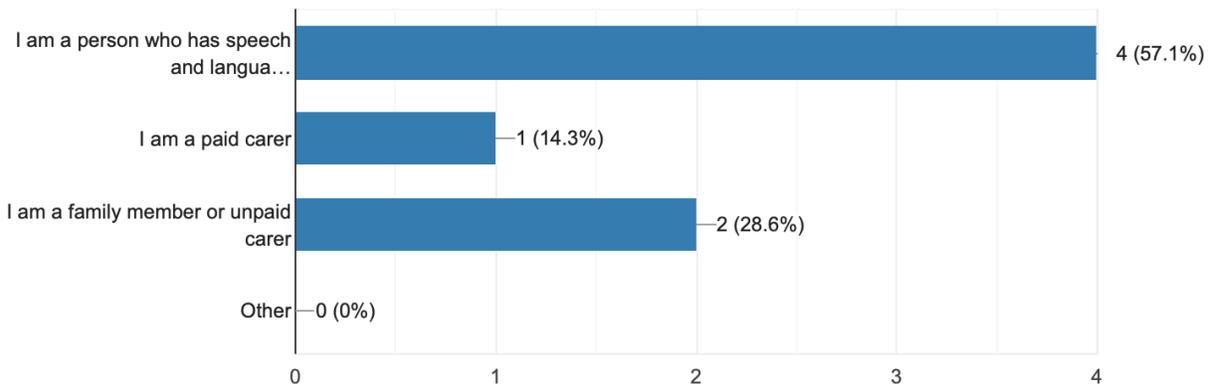
Question 31: How would you describe your gender?

Question 32: What is your ethnicity?

Who were the respondents?

7 people completed the Easy Read survey.

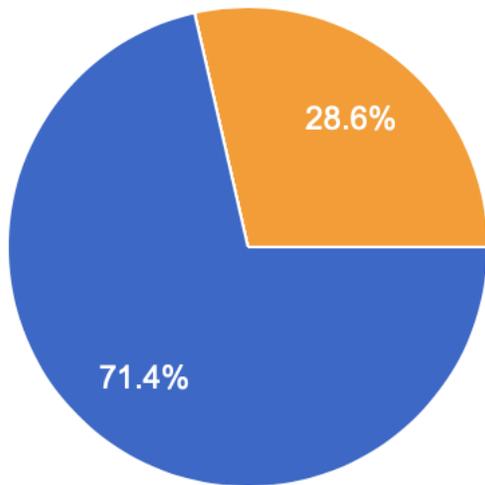
- 4 respondents (57%) were people who have SLT.
- 2 respondents (29%) were family members or unpaid carers.
- 1 (14%) was a paid carer.



6 respondents (86%) were receiving or had received SLT at the time of the survey and 1 respondent (14%) after March 2020.

Country

- 5 of the 7 respondents (71%) were living in England.
- 2 (29%) were living in Wales.

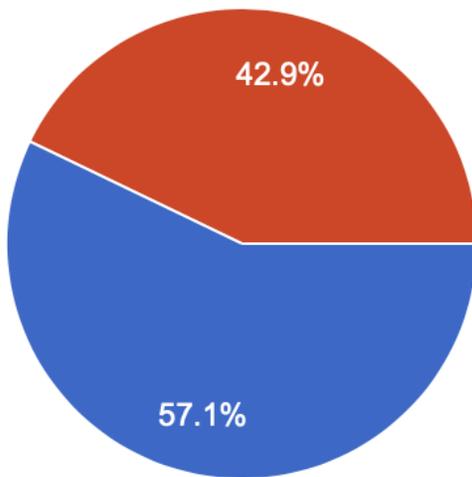


- England
- Scotland
- Wales
- Northern Ireland
- Other

Gender

With respect to gender:

- 4 (57%) identified as male.
- 3 (43%) identified as female.

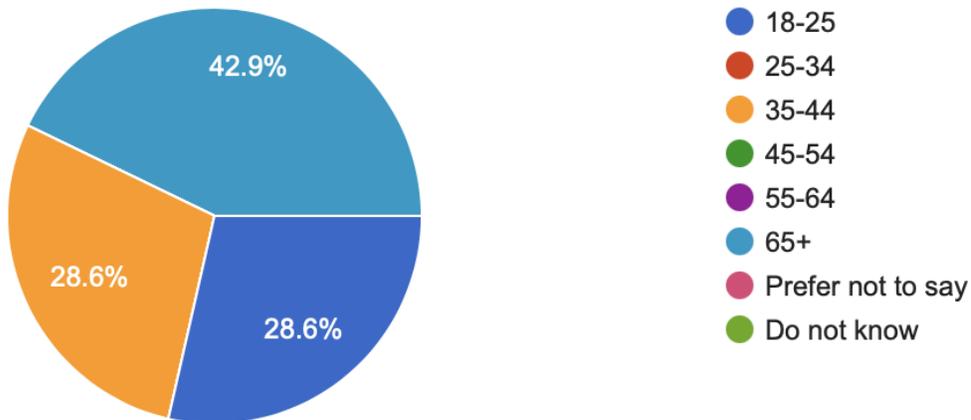


- Male
- Female
- Non-binary
- Prefer not to say
- Other

Age

With respect to age:

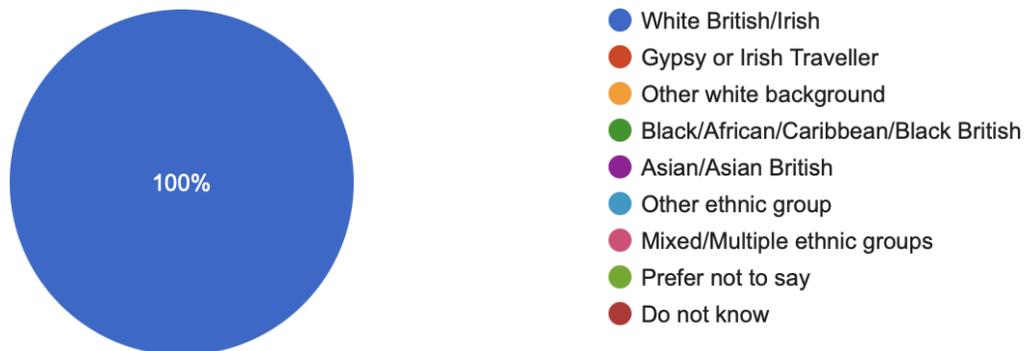
- 3 respondents (43%) were aged over 65 years.
- 2 (29%) were between 35 and 44 years.
- 2 (29%) were aged 18 to 25 years.



The 2 respondents (25%) aged between 18 and 25 years were receiving SLT support for further education or training.

Ethnicity

All 7 respondents identified as White British.



Section 2: Background history of receiving SLT

In this section, the reasons for receiving SLT and when SLT started are presented. This covers the following survey questions:
Question 7: Why are you having SLT?
Question 6: What does SLT help you with?
Question 5: When did you start having SLT?
Question 24: How does your SLT help you?
Question 11: How did you have your SLT before the virus lockdown (March to June 2020).

Condition

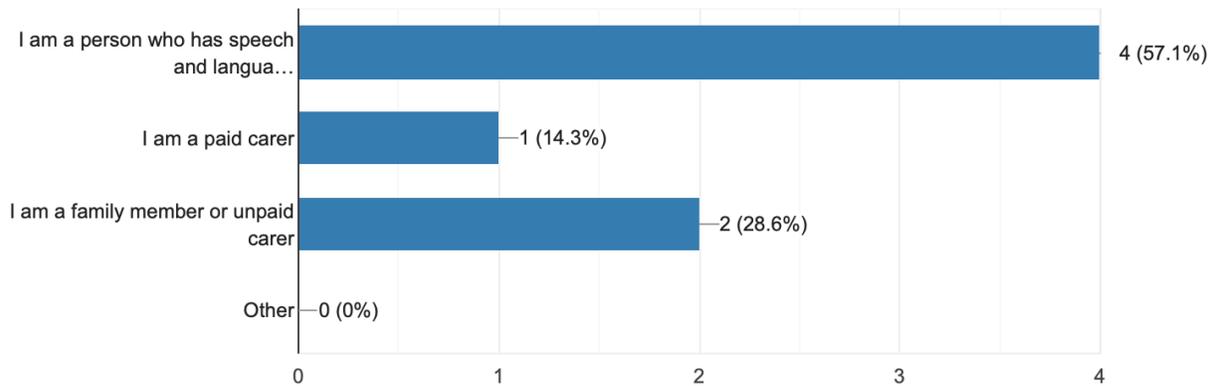
The survey asked respondents to identify the condition for which they were receiving SLT. All 7 respondents identified their condition(s) with several respondents selecting more than one condition indicating complex comorbidities.

- 2 respondents (29%) identified with autism.
- 2 (29%) with Parkinson's Disease.
- 2 (29%) with a stroke.
- 1 (14%) with cerebral palsy.
- 1 (14%) with a mental health difficulty.
- 1 (14%) with a learning disability.
- 1 (14%) with a stammer.
- 1 (14%) with developmental language disorder.

Reason for having speech and language therapy

All 7 respondents confirmed the reasons for receipt of SLT.

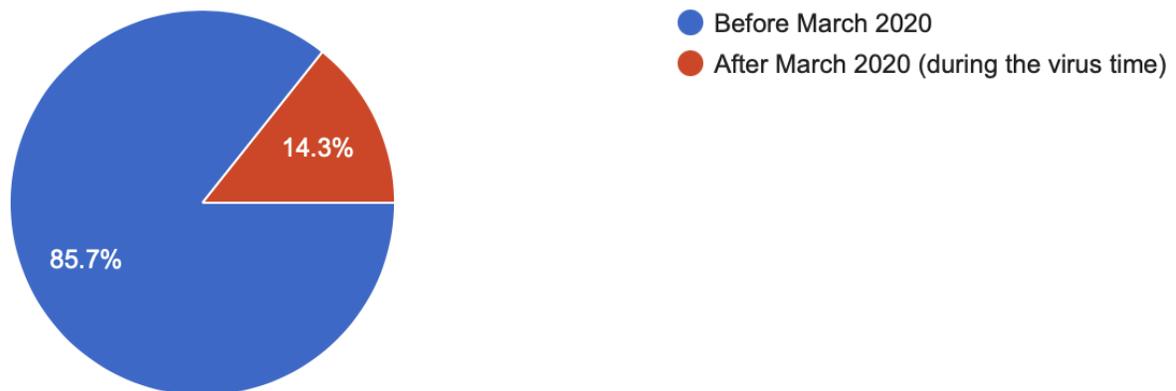
- All 7 respondents confirmed receipt of SLT for speech, language and communication.
- 3 respondents (43%) also received SLT for eating and drinking.



When speech and language therapy started

Of the 7 respondents:

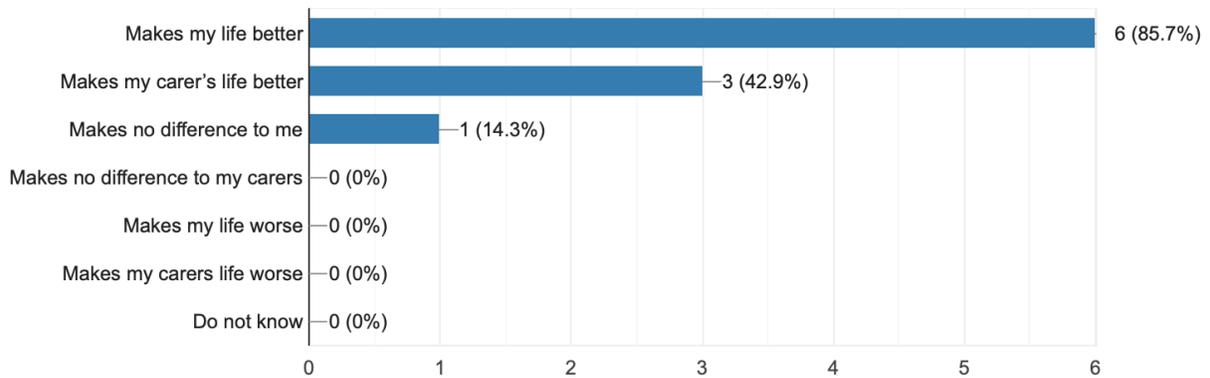
- 6 (86%) were in receipt of SLT before March 2020.
- 1 (14%) after March 2020.



How speech and language helps

All 7 respondents described how SLT helps them.

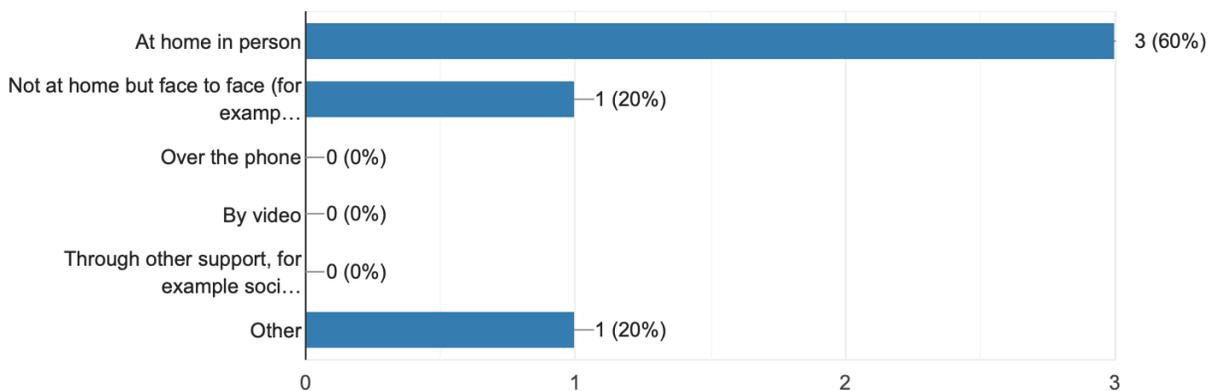
- For most of the respondents (n=6) (65%), SLT makes their life better.
- For 3 of these 6 respondents (43%) it also makes their carer's life better.
- 1 respondent (14%) reported SLT makes no difference to them.



How speech and language therapy was delivered before lockdown

5 of the 7 respondents reported how their SLT was delivered before lockdown in March 2020.

- 4 of the 5 respondents (80%) received SLT in person.
- 1 respondent (20%) not in person.



Section 3: Experiences of SLT during lockdown (March-June 2020)

In this section, the experiences of receiving SLT during lockdown are presented. This covers the survey questions of:

Question 8: Did your SLT change during lockdown (March to June 2020)?

Question 9: What happened to your SLT appointments?

Changes to speech and language therapy

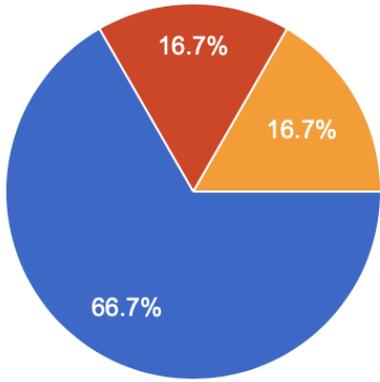
All 7 respondents reported changes in their receipt of SLT.

- Only 1 respondent (14%) received the same amount of SLT before and during lockdown.
- 4 respondents (57%) had no SLT.
- 2 (29%) received less SLT.



6 of these 7 respondents reported what happened to the SLT appointments.

- For 4 of the 7 respondents (67%), the SLT cancelled the appointment.
- 1 (27%) received an SLT appointment online.
- 1 respondent (17%) cancelled his/her appointment.



- The speech & language therapist cancelled my appointment
- I / my carer cancelled my appointment
- I had my speech and language therapy appointment using video
- I had speech and language therapy help over the phone

Section 4: Delivery of SLT and experiences of SLT delivery during lockdown (March-June 2020)

In this section, how SLT was delivered during lockdown is presented. This covers the survey questions of:

Question 12: Did you get SLT in person during the virus lockdown (March to June 2020)?

Question 13: Did you get your SLT over the phone during the first virus lockdown (March to June 2020)?

Question 14: How was your SLT over the phone?

Question 15: Did you get your SLT by video during the virus lockdown (March to June 2020)?

Question 16: How was your SLT help on video (online)?

Question 17: How easy was it to use the computer/laptop/tablet/smartphone?

Question 18: Did you get your SLT through other support, for example social media or printed materials during the virus lockdown (March to June 2020)?

Question 19: Did you get help updating things on your communication support tools (for example communication pictures, communication books, electronic aids)?

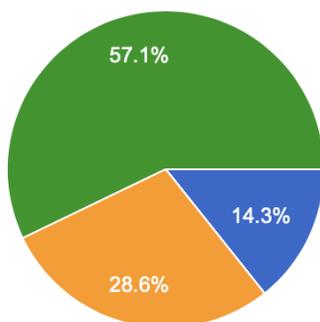
Question 21: What has it been like if you have to wear a mask during your SLT?

Question 22: What has it been like if your SLT has to wear a mask during your SLT?

The delivery of speech and language therapy

All 7 respondents reported on the delivery of SLT.

- 4 respondents (57%) did not receive any SLT during lockdown.
- 2 (29%) did not receive SLT in person, but did receive SLT online and both respondents reported they liked this online delivery and found it easy.
- 1 respondent (14%) received SLT at home on the phone and he/she liked this delivery.



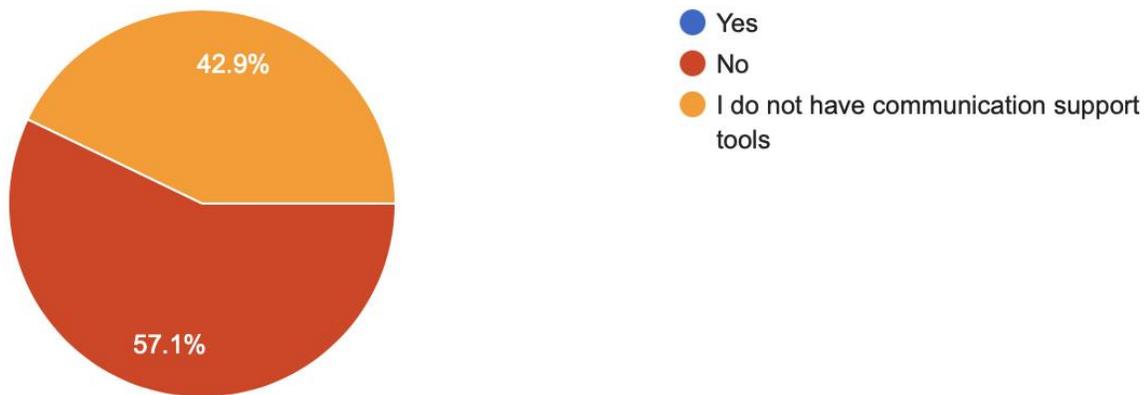
- Yes, I got face to face therapy at home
- Yes, I got face to face therapy but not at home (for example at a clinic or hospital)
- No, I did not get face to face therapy during lockdown
- I did not get speech and language therapy at all during lockdown

Other speech and language therapy support

3 of the 7 respondents responded to the question about receiving SLT for other support, such as printed materials or social media. All 3 confirmed they did not receive this support.

Communication tools

All 7 people responded to the question asking if they had received help in updating their communication support tools. 3 respondents (43%) reported not having any communication support tools. Of the 4 respondents (57%) who did have communication support tools, none of them received any help to update these.



Face masks

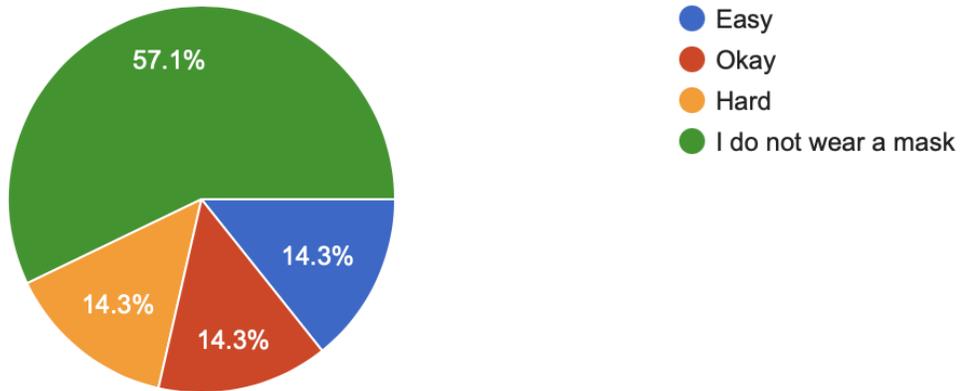
Respondents were asked if they or their speech and language therapist had worn a mask during their appointments and their experiences of this.

Of the 7 respondents:

- 4 (57%) reported not wearing a mask.
- 3 (43%) did.

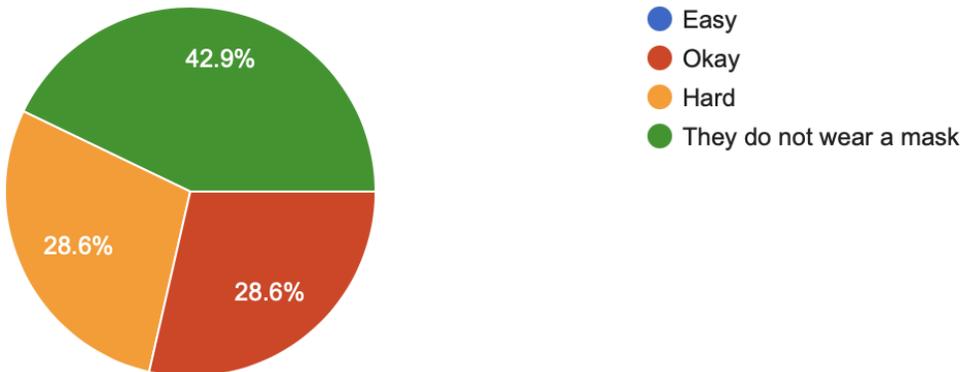
Of the 3 who did wear a mask:

- 1 (14%) reported this was 'OK'.
- 1 (14%) found it hard.
- 1 (14%) found it easy.



Four of the 7 respondents reported their speech and language therapist wore a mask. Of these 4 respondents:

- 2 (29%) found it hard.
- 2 (29%) found it OK.
- None found it easy.



Section 5 : Experiences of SLT during and after the end of lockdown

In this section, data on people's experiences of SLT during and after lockdown is presented. This covers the survey questions of:

Question 23: Has your communication or swallowing become worse during COVID-19?

Question 15: If you had less SLT help during lockdown (March to June 2020) tick the things it made worse.

Question 26: If you are a family member or carer of someone who had less SLT during lockdown (March to June 2020) tick the things it made worse for you.

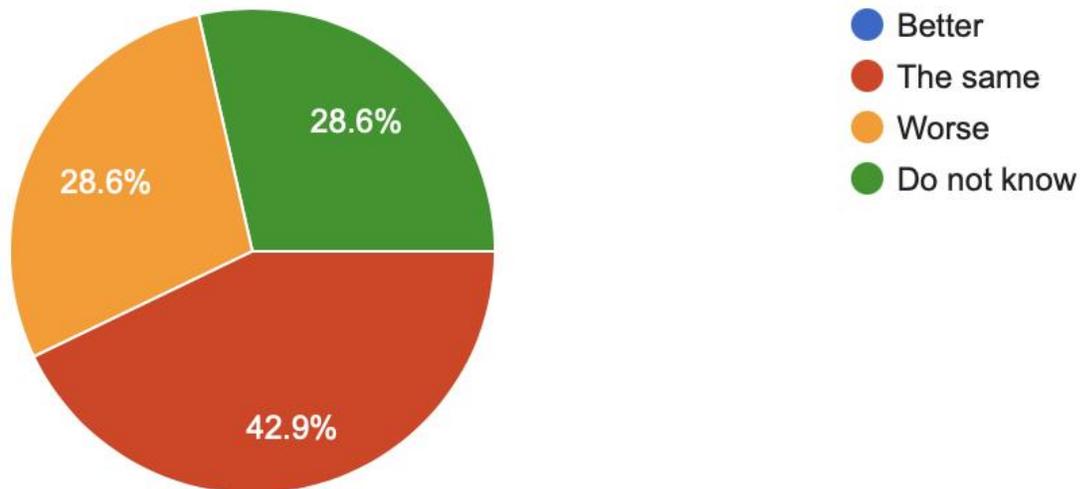
Question 27: Are you worried about getting your SLT help in the future?

Question 28: What are you worried about (if you don't have SLT help)?

Impact on communication and swallowing

All 7 respondents reported if their communication or swallowing became worse during lockdown.

- None of the 7 respondents felt their communication or swallowing was better.
- 2 (29%) reported it was worse.
- 2 respondents (29%) did not know.



Impact on people's lives of having less speech and language therapy

All 7 respondents confirmed they had less SLT during lockdown (March to June 2020).

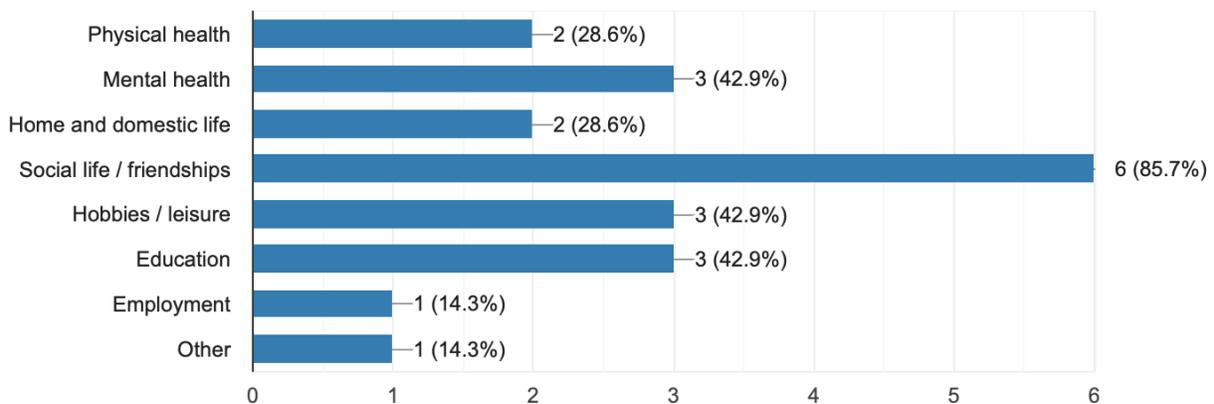
These 7 respondents identified aspects that were now worse for them because of having less SLT. Respondents were able to select more than one option.

The aspect with the most responses was social life and friendships (n=6) (86%).

This was followed by:

- Education (n=3) (43%).
- Hobbies/leisure (n=3) (43%).
- Mental health (n=3) (43%).
- Home and domestic life (n=2) (29%).
- Physical health (n=2) (29%).
- Employment (n=1) (14%).

1 respondent (14%) reported it made other aspects of their life worse.



Impact on families and carers of having less SLT of having less speech and language therapy

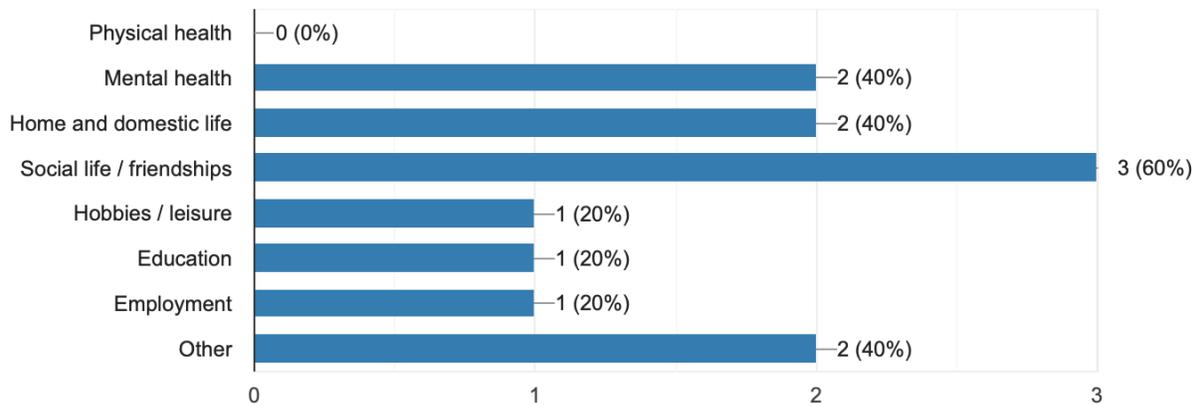
Family members and carers were also asked to describe the impact of less SLT on their own lives. 5 of the 7 respondents described this impact on their own lives because of having less SLT. Respondents were able to select more than one option.

The aspect with the most responses was social life and friendships (n=3) (60%).

This was followed by:

- Mental health (n=2) (40%).
- Home and domestic life (n=2) (40%).
- Employment (n=2) (40%).
- Education (n=1) (20%).
- Hobbies/leisure (n=1) (20%).

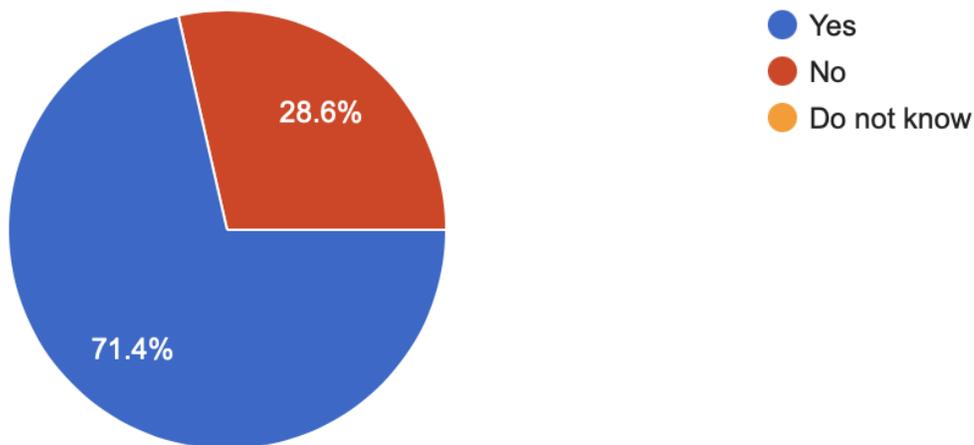
2 respondents (40%) reported it made other aspects of their lives worse.



Access to speech and language therapy in the future

All 7 respondents described if they were concerned about receiving SLT in the future.

- 5 respondents (71%) were concerned.
- 2 (29%) were not concerned.



Considerations for the descriptive analysis

Response rates varied across the 28 questions in the survey with some questions receiving a complete response rate of 7 responses and others a minimum of 2 responses. This variation in responses did limit the extent of the descriptive analysis completed. Some of the questions in the survey overlapped in content, which meant there was not always a consistent response rate across these questions. This means there were some differences in the responses received to questions asking the same content.