



Executive Summary – 0-18 surveys

The key findings of the main 0-18 survey are as follows.

Number of respondents

- The surveys for people aged 0-18 received a total of 425 responses.
- 414 responses were received to the main 0-18 survey and 9 to the accessible (Easy Read) survey.

Profile of respondents completing the main 0-18 survey

- The majority of the respondents (83%) were family members/unpaid carers of children and young people with speech, language and communication difficulties. These respondents completed the survey on behalf of their children and young people.
- The remaining respondents included children and young people with speech, language and communication difficulties, paid carers, and education and health professionals.
- The majority of the respondents (74%) lived in England. 17% lived in Scotland, 6% lived in Wales and 3% lived in Northern Ireland. 1 (0.2%) lived on the Isle of Man. Scotland is over-represented and England under-represented in relation to their populations.
- Approximately half of the responses (51%) were about people aged 5 to 11 years and 31% aged 0 to 4 years. 16% were aged 12 to 18 years.

Respondents' conditions

- A range of conditions were reported for these children and young people. Conditions included developmental delay, learning disability, developmental language disorder, autism, hearing loss or deafness, speech sound disorder, brain injury, stammer, ADHD, cleft lip and palate and selective mutism. Most respondents reported more than one condition.

Respondents' speech and language therapy

- The majority of respondents (88%) were in direct receipt of or had received SLT before March 2020, with fewer (only 12%) from March 2020 onwards.
- Before the start of lockdown, the majority (98%) received SLT for speech, language and communication. Prior to the start of lockdown in March 2020, all

respondents received SLT in person at schools, colleges, homes and other locations.

What happened during lockdown (March-June 2020)?

- All respondents reported changes to their receipt of SLT. Only 10% received the same amount of SLT before and during lockdown. The majority (81%) received less SLT, with a very small proportion (2%) receiving more. More than half of the respondents (62%) did not receive any SLT during lockdown.
- A range of reasons was given for the reduced SLT received during lockdown. SLT services cancelling appointments was the most common reason due to the closure of schools and colleges, and the redeployment of SLT services.
- Experiences of the delivery of SLT during lockdown included in-person, telephone and online/telehealth. Experiences of phone and online/telehealth delivery were mixed, but did indicate some satisfaction with this mode of delivery.

What was the impact of less speech and language therapy during lockdown?

- Overall, lockdown had a negative impact on children and young people's speech, language and communication.
- Nearly half the respondents (47%) reported their communication stayed the same and 24% reported it was worse.
- A negative impact on education (67%), social life and friendships (59%) and mental health (45%) were the most cited ways in which people said their lives had got worse.
- For family members and carers, the areas most impacted were their home and domestic life (64%).

What happened after lockdown ended?

- From the end of lockdown (June 2020), 73% of respondents were not receiving any in-person SLT provision.

What happened in the most and least deprived areas of England?

- Responses reveal a difference between the most deprived areas and the least deprived areas in access to SLT in England for children and young people.
- Respondents from the most deprived areas received less SLT during lockdown than people from the leastst deprived areas – 82% and 80% respectively.
- Interestingly, a higher percentage of respondents from the most deprived areas reported receiving more SLT during lockdown than people in the least deprived areas – 4% and 1% respectively.
- A lower percentage of respondents from the most deprived areas also received in person speech and language therapy during lockdown than people from the

least deprived areas - 7% and 13% respectively.

- 71% of respondents from the most deprived areas reported receiving no in-person SLT during lockdown. The figure in the least deprived areas was 58%.
- 22% of respondents in the most deprived areas received face-to-face SLT after lockdown. In the least deprived areas the figure was 39%.
- 78% of respondents in the most deprived areas reported not having face-to-face SLT after lockdown. In the least deprived areas the figure was 64%.

What do people think about the future?

- 79% of respondents were concerned about being able to access SLT in the future.
- They were concerned that a lack of access to SLT would make their lives worse.
- 82% highlighted the impact on education. 74% highlighted the impact on social life and friendships. 60% highlighted the impact on mental health.

What do people think about speech and language therapy?

- There was a clear consensus that SLT improves the lives of children and young people with speech, language and communication difficulties and the lives of their family members/carers.
- 76% said that SLT makes their life better.
- 29% said that it makes their carer's life better.

What do people who filled out the accessible surveys say?

- While the small number of the accessible 0-18 survey responses makes it difficult to identify trends as clear as those from the main survey, they do mirror the findings highlighted above.
- More detail is given in the descriptive data and analysis of the accessible 0-18 survey below.