

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT ELECTION 2021

OUR ASKS FOR 2021

The **Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists** asks the next Scottish Government and Parliament to commit to the following:

1

Make communication with public services as accessible as possible for everyone by passing and funding an **“Inclusive Communication Nation” law and action plan.**

An Inclusive Communication Nation law and action plan would be paid for by alleviating the considerable costs of communication breakdown. A cost-benefit analysis by Fraser of Allander Institute (March 2021) highlights that inclusive communications adopted across the public sector could reduce the need for costly crisis interventions, enable more independence, and allow all people in Scotland to realise their human rights – as well as achieving economies of scale.

2

Establish a **right to rehabilitation** so that everyone with a long-term condition gets the highest quality rehabilitation, when and where it works best for them.

All Scots who live with Long Covid, Stroke, Dementia, Mental Illness, Parkinson’s, Motor Neurone Disease, Multiple Sclerosis, and many other long-term conditions, need rehabilitation. Many are going without the rehabilitation they need to live the way they want to.

By employing more allied health professionals – such as speech and language therapists – paid for by the money saved on avoidable hospital and social care, Scots with long-term conditions will live happier, more independent lives.

3

Implement a **‘Great communication with and for every child’** strategy to ensure every child and young person develops the best speech, language and communication skills they can for a happy and successful life.

A cohesive and comprehensive ‘Great communication with and for every child’ strategy would be paid for jointly from education, health, justice and social care budgets.

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