



#BuildBackBetterSLT – aphasia: what people with aphasia told us

Summary

- There were 25 responses to the aphasia-accessible survey.

Survey responses

Survey responses are grouped into five sections*:

- Section 1 gives the demographic data about the survey respondents.
- Section 2 describes the respondents' background history of receiving speech and language therapy (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.

* Percentages may not always add up to 100% as we have removed some responses with very small percentages.

More information

- Visit the dedicated #BuildBackBetterSLT webpage: bit.ly/BuildBackBetterSLT
- Contact: peter.just@rcslt.org and padraigin.oflynn@rcslt.org

Section 1: Demographic data of the respondents

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

Question 2: Which country do you live in?

Question 22: How old are you?

Question 23: How would you describe your gender?

Question 24: What is your ethnicity?

Country

Of the 25 respondents, 19 (76%) lived in England, 3 (12%) lived in Northern Ireland, and 3 (12%) lived in Scotland or Wales.

Gender

With respect to gender, all 25 respondents identified their gender.

- Most of the respondents (n=19) (76%) identified as male.
- 6 respondents (24%) identified as female.

Age

All 25 respondents reported their age.

- 3 respondents (12%) were aged 45-54 years.
- 8 (32%) were aged 55-64 years.
- 14 (56%) were aged over 65 years.

Ethnicity

23 of 25 respondents reported their ethnicity.

All identified as White British/Irish (n=23) (100%).

Section 2: Background history of receiving SLT

In this section, the reasons why people were having SLT and when SLT started are presented. This covers the following survey questions:

Question 5: Why are you having speech and language therapy?

Question 4: What does speech and language therapy help you with?

Question 3: When did you start having speech and language therapy?

Question 17: How does your speech and language therapy help you?

Question 6: How did you have your SLT before the virus lockdown (March to June 2020)?

Condition

The survey asked respondents to identify why they were receiving SLT.

- 14 respondents (56%) were receiving SLT because of a brain haemorrhage or stroke.
- 4 respondents (16%) were receiving SLT because of a head injury.
- 7 respondents (28%) were receiving SLT because of something else.

Reason for having speech and language therapy

All respondents received SLT for their speech, language and communication.

When speech and language therapy started

Of the 25 respondents, most (n=14) (56%) began receiving speech and language therapy during coronavirus (since March 2020).

7 (28%) began receiving speech and language therapy before February 2019.

4 (16%) began receiving speech and language therapy between February 2019 and February 2020.

How speech and language therapy helps

21 of 25 respondents said how speech and language therapy helps, and all (100%) said that speech and language therapy makes their lives better.

How speech and language was delivered before lockdown

20 of 25 respondents reported how their SLT was delivered before lockdown in March 2020.

- 60% (n=12) respondents reported receiving SLT by video/online.

- 50% (n=10) received SLT in person but not at home.
- 25% (n=5) received it in person at home.

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

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

Question 7: Did your SLT change during lockdown (March to June 2020)?

Question 8: What happened to your SLT appointments?

Changes to speech and language therapy

All 25 respondents reported changes in their receipt of SLT.

- 3 respondents (12%) received less SLT.
- 2 respondents (8%) reported they received the same amount of SLT as before lockdown.
- 12 respondents (48%) reported they received more SLT.
- 8 respondents (32%) did not know.

What happened to speech and language therapy appointments

20 of the 25 respondents were able to report what happened to the SLT appointments.

- 17 respondents (85%) received their SLT appointment online/by video.
- 6 respondents (24%) received their SLT appointment on the phone.
- For 2 respondents (10%), the speech and language therapist cancelled the appointment.

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

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

Question 10: How did you feel about SLT over the phone?

Question 11: How did you feel about SLT online/on video?

Question 12: Is speech and language therapy on a video call hard or easy?

Question 13: How do you feel about wearing a mask for speech and language therapy?

Question 14: How do you feel about your speech and language therapist wearing a mask?

Speech and language therapy over the phone

20 of the 25 respondents reported on the delivery of SLT over the phone.

- 6 respondents (30%) felt positive about SLT on the phone.
- 6 respondents (30%) felt neutral.
- 5 respondents (25%) felt negative.
- 3 respondents (15%) did not know.

Speech and language therapy by video

24 of the 25 respondents reported on the delivery of SLT on video.

- 13 respondents (54%) felt positive about SLT on video.
- 6 respondents (25%) felt neutral.
- 3 respondents (13%) felt negative.
- 2 respondents (8%) did not know.

24 of the 25 respondents reported how they found SLT on video.

- 11 respondents (46%) found SLT on video easy.
- 8 respondents (33%) found it neutral.
- 3 respondents (13%) found it hard.
- 2 respondents (8%) did not know.

Masks during speech and language therapy

23 of the 25 respondents reported on how they felt about wearing a mask during speech and language therapy.

- 4 respondents (17%) felt positive about wearing a mask.
- 5 respondents (22%) felt neutral.
- 14 respondents (61%) felt negative.

23 of the 25 respondents reported how they felt about their speech and language therapist wearing a mask.

- 8 respondents (35%) felt positive about their speech and language therapist wearing a mask.
- 2 respondents (9%) felt neutral.
- 11 respondents (48%) felt negative.

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 15: Tell us about your communication during lockdown.

Question 16: Tell us about your swallowing during lockdown.

Question 19: Are you worried about getting speech and language therapy help in the future?

Question 20: Do you have other worries?

Impact on communication and swallowing

24 of 25 respondents reported on their communication during lockdown.

- 9 respondents (38%) felt their communication was better.
- 6 respondents (25%) reported it was the same.
- 7 respondents (29%) reported it was worse.
- 2 respondents (8%) did not know.

21 of 25 respondents reported on their swallowing during lockdown.

- 3 respondents (14%) felt their swallowing was better.
- 15 respondents (71%) reported it was the same or worse.
- 3 respondents (14%) did not know.

Access to speech and language therapy in the future

24 of 25 respondents described if they were worried about receiving SLT in the future.

- 7 (29%) respondents were worried.
- 11 (46%) respondents were not worried.
- 6 (25%) did not know.

15 of the 25 respondents went on to describe their concerns. Respondents selected more than one response. Concerns people identified if they had less SLT in the future were:

- Social life (n=10) (67%).
- Physical health (n=10) (67%).
- Mental health (n=6) (40%).
- Work and education (n=4) (27%).
- Hobbies and leisure (n=4) (27%).