

**Getting it right for communication - right support, right place, right time:  
our response to the Department for Education's SEND Review Green Paper  
July 2022**

**Action area 3: Joint commissioning**

**What we've heard from speech and language therapists**

"Speech, language and communication needs overlaps areas of health and education in ways that are impossible to pull apart neatly to fit with one service."

"Joint commissioning would help mitigate this as an area of conflict between health and education."

"Speech and language therapy commissioning continues to be a total mess. 'Joint commissioning' is the recommendation from every review, but it rarely happens at a local level. There needs to be a long-term national plan for provision, involving joint planning at departmental level. If adequate long-term speech and language therapy was available at SEND support this would reduce the number of tribunals too."

Local systems need more support to understand and implement strategic joint commissioning. They also need to be monitored. They need to be held accountable when they are not commissioning services in a joined-up way. Again and again we hear that joint commissioning is the solution to the gaps in provision, but it is happening in too few areas. Currently, the SEND Review represents a huge missed opportunity to drive this forward.

**Action required: joint commissioning must be improved and where it is not happening local areas must be held to account. In its response to the consultation, the Government must set out how it proposes to do this, including in the new Integrated Care Systems.**

**[Read the full RCSLT and ASLTIP joint policy statement](#)**