

RCSLT

POLICY CALLS

Ahead of the UK General Election, the RCSLT is issuing a series of policy calls that we think the next government needs to implement to help to deliver better lives for people with communication and/or swallowing needs and their families.



Some of these calls are specifically from the RCSLT and others are as part of coalitions of which we are a member. They include both UK-wide calls as well as those which are for England only.

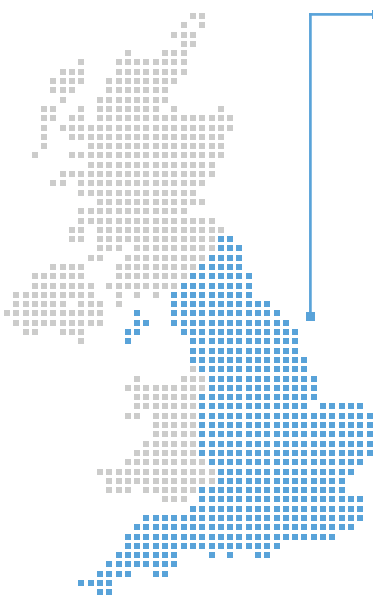
UK-wide

1. RCSLT is calling on all parties and candidates to be communication accessible by undertaking Communication Access UK training.
2. RCSLT is calling on all parties to invest in speech and language therapy.
3. As part of the Prescribing Now coalition, the **RCSLT** is calling on all parties to commit to extending independent prescribing responsibilities to speech and language therapists, and other coalition partners.
4. As part of the Inclusive Parliament coalition, the **RCSLT** is calling on political parties and candidates to pledge to change the behaviours, culture, and procedures of Parliament so they are inclusive of people with communication difference.



England only

5. As part of the SEND in the Specialists coalition, the **RCSLT** is calling on all parties to invest in and properly plan for the specialist workforce for children and young people with SEND.
6. As part of the Lets Talk Communication coalition, the **RCSLT** is calling on parties and candidates to have children and young people's spoken language and communication to be at the heart of their manifestos.
7. As part of the Community Rehabilitation Alliance, the **RCSLT** is calling for parties to -
 - Expand the rehabilitation workforce in the community, making use of the full workforce available, including allied health professionals, to ensure there is access to high quality rehabilitation services for everyone who needs it.



- Ensure rehabilitation forms a core part of NHS future planning guidance. The next government must make a commitment to rehabilitation as an equal pillar of health care to medicines and surgery.
- Mandate integrated care boards (ICBs) to improve access to high quality community rehabilitation services with an accountable lead in each ICB to drive forward this change.

Other coalitions of which we are members

The RCSLT is a supporter of the **Children at the Table** campaign which is about:

- Making sure politicians across government work together to improve the lives of babies, children and young people
- Putting children's needs and voices at the heart of decision making
- Investing more of the nation's wealth in babies, children and young people

The RCSLT is a member of the **Special Educational Consortium (SEC)** which has identified three priorities to address the current challenges faced by disabled children and young people and those with special educational needs within the education system:

- Accountability and support
- Funding and workforce support
- Listening to children and young people and their families

Other things RCSLT is calling for

We repeat our long-standing calls for:

1. speech and language therapists to be added to the list of professionals who can train as approved mental capacity professionals (England and Wales).
2. speech and language therapy to be provided in all prisons, secure children's homes, youth justice teams, and young offender institutions to support people with communication and/or swallowing needs (England and Wales).
3. reform of the Mental Health Act and embedding speech and language therapists as a core part of the mental health workforce (England and some parts relevant to Wales).

