



CONFERENCE 2025: 26-27 NOVEMBER

80 YEARS... AND BEYOND

## Programme

Explore our two-day programme filled with inspiring content, from clinically focused research and early career insights to system-level thinking and strategic discussions. **Book your place now at [register.rcsltconference.co.uk](https://register.rcsltconference.co.uk).**

### Key

<b>KEYNOTE SESSIONS</b>	Sessions featuring leading voices sharing their fresh perspectives on the profession
<b>SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME</b>	Research, quality improvement, audit or service-evaluation oriented sessions
<b>IMPACT AND INNOVATION</b>	Highlighting innovative practice and emerging priorities in speech and language therapy.
<b>POSTERS / SPONSORS</b>	Protected time to view the research, quality improvement, audit or service-evaluation oriented posters and connect with our sponsors
<b>AGM</b>	An excellent opportunity for RCSLT members to see what is going on behind the scenes at the RCSLT and to have a say on important decisions.

Please note session titles and information are subject to amendments.

RCSLT Conference 2025 is sponsored by:



Also joining us as exhibitors are:



## Day 1 - 26 November 2025

9.00 – 09.50	50 mins	<p><b>SLTs in Leadership: Navigating the Path to Influence</b>                  James Benson, CEO, Central London Community Healthcare NHS Trust                  With welcome and introduction: Steve Jamieson, CEO, RCSLT</p> <p>SLT James Benson shares his journey from clinician to CEO and offers insights for future leaders shaping the profession in a changing landscape.</p>			
9.50 – 10.10	20 mins	Connect with our sponsors and view the research and quality improvement posters			
10.15 – 11.10	55 mins	<p><b>Innovation in Practice: Job planning and service redesign in speech and language therapy</b></p>		<p><b>Paediatric assessment and intervention</b>                  Chair: Gillian Rudd</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Personal Narrative Assessment in Childhood: A Systematic Review of Methods, Measures, and Implications for Inclusive Practice</b> Vani Gupta</li> <li>• <b>The Impact of Time Spent in Natural Outdoor Spaces on Children’s Language, Communication and Social Skills. A Systematic Review</b> Steph Scott</li> <li>• Q&amp;A</li> </ul>	<p><b>Aphasia assessment and intervention</b>                  Chair: Lotte Meteyard</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>European Stroke Organisation Guideline on Aphasia rehabilitation</b> Dr. Claire Mills</li> <li>• <b>From Vision to Voice: Opportunities and challenges of using smart-camera apps as communication aids in aphasia therapy</b> Dr Anna Caute</li> <li>• <b>Reorganising community SLT services to deliver high dose treatments to people with aphasia: learning points from an intensive therapy project in Essex and an update on the transformation of local services to enshrine this approach as routine provision</b> John Bentley</li> </ul>
11.15 – 12.00	45 mins	<p><b>SLTs and Public Health: Prevention, Impact, and Tackling Inequalities</b>                  William Roberts, Chief Executive, Royal Society for Public Health</p> <p>Explore how SLTs can make a meaningful impact on public health and tackle inequalities in their communities.</p>			

12.00 – 12.45	45 mins	Lunch			
12.45 – 13.35	50 mins	<b>Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2025</b> Your conference ticket includes access to the AGM. We encourage all full members to attend and vote. <a href="#">See full details of the AGM here</a>			
13.40 – 14.35	55 mins	<b>Child speech and Cleft lip &amp; palate</b> Chair: Silke Fricke <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sonospeech Cleft Pilot: Results from a pilot randomised control trial of ultrasound visual biofeedback versus standard intervention for children with cleft palate ± cleft lip (CP±L)</b> Dr Maria Cairney</li> <li>• <b>A speech subsystems approach to establishing norms for speech development in primary school aged children: The VariCS Project</b> Dr Anja Kuschmann</li> <li>• <b>Speech sound development in preterm-born children: A scoping review</b> Dr Sam Burr</li> </ul>	<b>Service-user perspectives</b> Chair: Lucie McAnespie <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>"I don't want to be this uptight, pushy person, continuously fighting for my child": Parental Perspectives on Developmental Language Disorder</b> Dr Hannah Harvey</li> <li>• <b>Parents' and professionals' experiences of the Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) process. Using thematic and narrative analyses to understand partnerships and practices.</b> Dr Jo Sandiford</li> <li>• <b>Caregiver perspectives on diagnosis and treatment for CAS: An international questionnaire study</b> Eliza Williamson</li> </ul>	<b>Working with people who stammer</b> Chair: Gillian Rudd <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Learning from people with lived experience of cluttering: what people who clutter want from therapy</b> Sarah Cauter</li> <li>• <b>Empowering children who stammer and their families; Co-production of the novel mobile application 'SuperPenguin'</b> Victoria Gale</li> <li>• <b>STAMMA's Research Arena: Centring Lived Experience in the Design and Direction of Stammering Research</b> Gillian Rudd</li> </ul>	<b>Dementia</b> Chair: Rosalind Gray Rogers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Development and evaluation of the VOICE2 communication skills training intervention for hospital staff to help avoid or resolve distressed behaviour in patients living with dementia</b> Dr Rebecca O'Brien</li> <li>• <b>Understanding the interactional skills required by healthcare support workers working with people with dementia in mental health settings</b> Dr Jacqueline Kindell</li> <li>• Q&amp;A</li> </ul>
14.35 – 14.45	10 mins	Break			
14.45 – 15.05	20 mins	Connect with our sponsors and view the research and quality improvement posters			

15.10 – 16.05	55 mins	<p><b>Early years</b> Chair: Alison Williams</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Connect With Me - Book and Training Package</b> Seána Kerr</li> <li>• <b>The Early Years Sign Survey: outcomes and implications</b> Dr Victoria Knowland</li> <li>• <b>Exploring a Strategic Model of Embedding Inclusive Communication Practice in High Need Nurseries; Empowering the Early Years Workforce and Delivering Behaviour Change Through Coaching, Collaboration and Culture Shift</b> Colette Quinlivan</li> </ul>	<p><b>ENT and critical care</b> Chair: Gemma Clunie</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Pre and post-operative voice therapy for benign vocal fold lesions: The PAPOV feasibility trial</b> Dr Anna White</li> <li>• <b>Enhancing MDT Support for Non-Verbal Communication in Critical Care: A Service Development project</b> Rebecca Sawyer</li> <li>• <b>SLT- led faster diagnosis standard (2 week wait) clinics</b> Samantha Briggs</li> </ul>	<p><b>Multi-lingualism</b> Chair: Melanie Greaux</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Speech and Language Therapy outcomes for Deaf children and young people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse families.</b> Lauren Newman</li> <li>• <b>Focus on teaching approaches and critical reflections on multilingualism in phonetics and phonology: an SLT students-teachers dual perspective study</b> Davide Di Prete</li> <li>• <b>Cultural and linguistic adaptation of expressive language assessments and language therapy packages for Languages Other Than English</b> Dr Sean Pert</li> </ul>	<p><b>Digital solutions in dysphagia</b> Chair: Claire Taylor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Telehealth in Integrated Care: Enabling Safe Remote Assessment for Dysphagia, Nutrition, and Medication Management in Care Homes</b> Sheiladen Aquino</li> <li>• <b>Building a digital platform for dysphagia rehabilitation: findings from first stage co-design workshops with clinicians and service users</b> Dr Jackie McRae</li> <li>• Q&amp;A</li> </ul>
16.05 – 16.20	15 mins	Break			
16.20 – 17.00	40 mins	<b>Breaking Barriers: The role of SLTs in prisons</b>	<b>Your Career, Our Commitment: Supporting your professional development</b>	<b>New Developments in Co-production</b>	<b>Advanced Practice: Pathways and opportunities</b>

<p>17.05 – 18.00</p>	<p>55 mins</p>	<p><b>Where Next for SEND? National and local perspectives on the Government's plans for the SEND system in England (provisional title)</b></p>	<p><b>Back to Our Roots: Reclaiming the central role of communication therapy</b></p>	<p><b>Youth justice</b> Chair: Kim Turner</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Introducing A Self-advocacy Approach in the Communication Assessment Pathway with Young People in the Youth Justice Setting</b> Dr Elaine Duddy</li> <li>• <b>'Using AI to develop training for police in interviewing vulnerable defendants'</b> Fiona Stuart</li> <li>• <b>'Y-Lang Just'</b> Professor Marie Arche</li> <li>• Q&amp;A</li> </ul>	<p><b>Technology, innovation, and implementation in AAC</b> Chair: Kath Broomfield</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The impact of highly authentic synthesised voice clones on personal identity and social networks in MND</b> Dr Richard Cave</li> <li>• <b>Interacting with virtual characters, objects and environments: investigating immersive virtual reality in rehabilitation</b> Professor Bronwyn Hemsley</li> <li>• <b>Collaborative working with caregivers of young children who may benefit from AAC</b> Sarah Hayward</li> </ul>
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## Day 2 - 27 November 2025

9.00 – 09.50	50 mins	<b>Eighty Years of Change: Celebrating the History of our Profession</b> Jois Stansfield, Emeritus Professor and PhD student of History  Explore 80 years of speech and language therapy through the images, materials, and stories that shaped our profession.			
9.50 – 10.10	20 mins	Connect with our sponsors and view the research and quality improvement posters			
10.15 – 11.10	55 mins	<b>Investing in Us: Practical approaches to support staff belonging, wellbeing and development</b>	<b>Early Language Support for Every Child: what can we learn from the ELSEC Pathfinders (provisional title)</b>	<b>Autism and neurodiversity</b> Chair: Irma Donaldson <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exploring the impact of parent-led therapy (PLT) in different service delivery modes on social communication skills of bilingual autistic children Sarah Oudet</li> <li>• The Neuro-affirming Community of Practice Scotland: A Workforce Development Initiative Dr Marion Rutherford</li> <li>• Q&amp;A</li> </ul>	<b>Workforce</b> Chair: Claire Taylor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building Belonging, Career Pathways and Sustainability: Improving Retention of the Rural and Coastal AHP Workforce Dr Louise Howe</li> <li>• Recruiting for Rural Impact: Strategic Approaches to Strengthen the AHP Workforce in Underserved Communities Dr Sophie Willis</li> <li>• How Do You Start from Scratch? Developing a Supervision Pathway for Paediatric FEES Through Collaboration with ENT and Adult Services Rhiannon Halfpenny</li> </ul>
11.15 – 12.00	45 mins	<b>Looking Forward: Championing AHPs in Healthcare</b> Professor Beverley Harden, Deputy Chief Allied Health Professions Officer for England  Professor Beverley Harden highlights how SLTs and other AHPs can innovate, lead, and shape the future of healthcare.			
12.00 – 12.45	45 mins	Lunch			

12.45 – 13.40	55 mins	<p><b>Mealtime support</b> Chair: Kathleen Graham</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Feelgood mealtimes for inpatients, implementing the CHOICES approach</b> Dr Susan Guthrie</li> <li>• <b>What is the clinical practice of Speech &amp; Language Therapists who work with school-aged children with neurodisability and oropharyngeal dysphagia who require mealtime assistance – a UK survey</b> Sally Morgan</li> <li>• Q&amp;A</li> </ul>	<p><b>Intervention design</b> Chair: Amit Kulkarni</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Reconstruction in Action: Exploring Mechanisms of Change in the 'Talking Out Residential', a stammering-affirming residential intervention</b> Ben Bolton-Grant</li> <li>• <b>A Framework of Support for Adults with Developmental/Language Disorder: Co-Production, Prioritisation and Progression</b> Professor Victoria Joffe</li> <li>• <b>Using the TIDieR framework for intervention planning and reporting: examples for Aphasia</b> Professor Lucy Dipper</li> </ul>	<p><b>Brain injury / cognitive communication</b> Chair: TBC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>INCOG 2.0 guidelines for Cognitive Rehabilitation Following Traumatic Brain Injury</b> Professor Leanne Togher</li> <li>• <b>Using the rehabilitation treatment specification system to inform the development of voice and brain injury speech and language therapy interventions</b> Dr Nicholas Behn</li> <li>• <b>The British object and action naming test for intraoperative mapping (BOATIM): A standardised and clinically tested framework for awake brain surgery</b> Hajira Mumtaz</li> </ul>	<p><b>School-aged children</b> Chair: Jan Baerselman</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The impact of Higher-Level Lead Communication Practitioners on services to children with speech, language and communication needs in settings/schools: The value to speech and language therapy services</b> Professor Helen Stringer</li> <li>• <b>The characteristics and outcomes of primary school aged children accessing speech and language therapy in the UK: insights from real-world data</b> Sarah Lambert</li> <li>• Q&amp;A</li> </ul>
13.45 – 14.40	55 mins	<p><b>Digital tools for long-term adult care</b> Chair: Pauline Downie</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Co-designing solutions to create a smart speaker tool for speech and voice difficulties for people living with Parkinson's Disease</b> Jodie Mills</li> <li>• <b>Interprofessional Co-Design of Virtual Reality Training to Improve Swallowing, Nutrition and Medication</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>Learning disabilities</b> Chair: Lucie McAnespie</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Visualising Health Together: The 'Seven Design Principles' Framework for meaningful co-design for/with people with learning disabilities</b> Dr Alison Drewett</li> <li>• <b>Bridging the Gap in Oral Hygiene Education for Young People with Learning Disabilities</b> Claire Johnston</li> </ul>	<p><b>Selective mutism</b> Chair: Anita McKiernan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Learning from lived experiences of childhood selective mutism and intervention to inform more empathic and empowering practices</b> Gino Hipolito</li> <li>• <b>A survey of paediatric professionals providing psychological or speech and language therapy to understand selective mutism</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>SLT placements</b> Chair: Jo Sandiford</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Enhancing Speech and Language Therapy Placement Models: Insights from a Scoping Review and Discovery Research in UK Schools</b> Dr Aparna Ramachandran</li> <li>• <b>Perspectives on transfer of knowledge and skills in Speech and Language therapy placements</b> Dr Elizabeth Bourne</li> </ul>

		<b>Care in Care Homes: An SLT-Led Innovation</b> Sheiladen Aquino <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Q&amp;A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Good communication with adults with learning disabilities in long-term care settings: A realist review</b>            Professor Jill Bradshaw</li> </ul>	<b>training needs and therapy provision</b> Gino Hipolito <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Q&amp;A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Enhancing Support for SLT Students Facing Placement Challenges: A Quality Improvement Framework from Northern Ireland</b>            Rosalind Gray Rogers</li> </ul>
14.40 – 14.50	10 mins	Break			
14.50 – 15.10	20 mins	Connect with our sponsors and view the research and quality improvement posters			
15.15 – 16.10	55 mins	<b>AI and SLT: the latest developments and what comes next</b>		<b>Economic value of speech and language therapy</b> Chair: Amit Kulkarni <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>An introduction to economic evaluation</b>            Dr Valerio Benedetto</li> <li><b>Economic Evaluations of SLT Interventions: A Scoping Review</b>            James Hill</li> <li><b>Reflections upon leading an economic evaluation within SLT research</b>            Professor Pauline Frizelle</li> </ul>	<b>Intervention for children with Speech Sound Disorder (SSD)</b> Chair: Fiona Lloyd <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Maximising the Impact of Speech and Language Therapy for children with Speech Sound Disorder (MISLToe_SSD): Phase 2 – UK-wide pilot and feasibility testing</b>            Professor Helen Stringer</li> <li><b>Exploring the evidence-base for dosage in intervention for children with phonological speech sound disorder: A scoping review</b>            Dr Sam Harding</li> <li>Q&amp;A</li> </ul>
16.10 – 16.20	10 mins	Break			
16.20 – 17.00	40 mins	<b>Politics, Advocacy and Influencing: the latest updates for SLTs</b>	<b>Equity, Diversity and Belonging (EDB)</b>	<b>Lost for Words: Screen time and the hidden cost to children's communication</b>	
17.05 – 18.00	55 mins	<b>The Power of Words: Inspiring Change from Within</b> Dr Radha Modgil, NHS GP and Author Dr Radha Modgil explores how subtle shifts in everyday language can transform your mental health, motivation, and positivity.			