

## 10 Year Workforce Plan: RCSLT and ASLTIP statement

April 2026

The Department of Health and Social Care is currently developing the 10 Year Workforce Plan [following their call for input last year](#). The Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT) and Association of Speech and Language Therapists in Independent Practice (ASLTIP) look forward to reviewing the Government's proposals and will be assessing the impact on both the speech and language therapy profession and the people whose lives it transforms.

In particular, we will be checking if the 10 Year Workforce Plan:

- **Contributes to improved workforce planning** across the whole speech and language therapy profession, not only those who work within the NHS.
- **Supports recruitment, retention, and professional development** of speech and language therapists (SLTs).
- **Improves career progression for SLTs**, including by removing the legal barriers that currently prevent them from training as independent prescribers or as responsible/approved clinicians.
- **Resolves long-standing failings [in workforce planning across the system](#).**
- **Reduces barriers to entry** and promote diverse routes into the profession.
- **Supports innovation in service delivery** across the profession.
- **Improves the lives** of people with communication, eating, drinking, and swallowing needs, as well as their families and carers.
- **Addresses the issues affecting access to speech and language therapy** for people of all ages, as highlighted by the *Invest in SLT* campaign.
- **Enables delivery of the Government's education policies**, including proposed reforms to the special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) system and the *Giving every child the best start in life* strategy.