

Experts at Hand & Local Authority SEND Transformation Fund:

RCSLT response

April 2026

On 15 April, the Department for Education published further details on its plans for the [Experts at Hand \(EAH\) offer](#), a key element of its [proposals for SEND reform](#) in England.

The RCSLT strongly encourages speech and language therapists working in relevant roles to engage proactively with local discussions, to help ensure these services are designed around what truly makes a difference for children and young people.

The publication also provides more clarity on the introduction of advanced practitioner speech and language therapy roles in every Integrated Care Board. These senior roles are intended to bring strong clinical leadership and expertise into the design and development of the EAH offer, while also supporting the longer-term growth and sustainability of the workforce.

We support the ambition to see more speech and language therapists working directly with children and young people. However, this must be achieved by expanding student and apprenticeship routes into the profession, not by stretching an already pressured workforce or diverting capacity away from vital adult services.

We look forward to continuing our close work with the Department for Education as these roles are developed and implemented, to help ensure they deliver meaningful, lasting benefits for children, young people, and the profession.