



The RCSLT is its members.

Thank you to all of our members who have engaged with our influencing work in the past year.

RCSLT Wales

highlights

2023/24

To get involved in our work:

Visit our Wales policy website
www.rcslt.org/Wales.

Follow us on **X @RCSLTWales**
or attend a virtual or face to face drop-in event.



Raising awareness of the need for better workforce planning

July 2023 Joint workforce event with 25 other royal colleges to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the NHS.

October 2023 Minister for Health and Social Care visit to the award winning care homes project in Bridgend.

2023-24 Written questions from Senedd Members and issue raised at First Minister's Questions and Questions to the Minister for Health and Social Care.



Eluned Morgan MS with members on her visit to Cwm Taf University Health Board.



Mabon ap Gwynfor MS speaking to Pippa Cotterill and member, Ria Bayliss at the NHS at 75 event.

Impact

Increase of 12% in speech and language therapy training places for 2024/25, despite budget pressures. First increase since 2020.



Raising awareness of DLD and the role of the profession

- We worked jointly with RADLD, Parents Voices in Wales, NAPLIC and members to hold our first ever DLD Awareness event in the Senedd in October 2023.
- 10 Senedd Members attended the event including the Health and Education Ministers. The Deputy Minister for Social Services gave the keynote address.
- BBC Wales coverage online, on the radio and on television.



Specialist Resource Base from Coed y Brain Primary School at the event.

Impact

You reposted



RADLDcampaign @RADLDcam · 22 Oct 2023
Replying to @PCamhs @RCSLTWales and 2 others
From our perspective at least it felt like Wales made a big jump in #DevLangDis awareness this year. Well done all!

Children and young people



Continuing to champion the work of the Talk With Me programme and raise awareness of the impact of unmet speech, language and communication needs and the importance of early intervention.

Impact

- We influenced the new Welsh Government guidance on school attendance which now includes a section on speech, language and communication needs.
- We have received confirmation that the National Speech, Language and Communication Co-ordinator post will become a permanent role within Welsh Government.



Talk with Me campaign poster.



Swallowing Awareness Day

Raising awareness of the role of speech and language therapists in supporting people with eating, drinking and swallowing needs.

- **March 2024** Dysphagia café event in the Senedd to mark Swallowing Awareness Day.
- Four MSs (one from each main political party) released specific social media content on the day, following visits to speech and language therapy teams.
- Media coverage on Radio Cymru on the role of neonatal SLTs to mark the awareness day.



Impact

- Almost a 1/3 of all Senedd Members attended the Senedd event.
- 90 second statement on Swallowing Awareness Day on the floor of the Senedd.

Justice



Raising awareness of the role of speech and language therapy within the criminal justice system.

- **December 2022** Strong written and oral evidence to the Welsh Senedd Equality and Social Justice Committee which held a one-day inquiry on the extent of speech, language and communication needs amongst young people who have offended or are at risk of offending.
- **August 2023** Visit to the Newport Youth Justice Service with Jayne Bryant MS, then Chair of the Senedd Children, Young People and Education Committee.

Impact

- **April 2023** Senedd Equality and Social Justice Committee report included all our key recommendations in their final report.
- **June 2023** Welsh Government response to the report was disappointing but strong debate on report. A number of Senedd Members committed to raising awareness of the need for speech and language therapists within the youth justice system.
- **January 2024** Welsh Government held a summit on this issue.
- Increase in speech and language therapists within youth justice services in Wales.