

RCSLT response to Quality strategy for NHS-funded care in England

14 July 2026

On 14 July, NHS England published the [Quality strategy for NHS-funded care in England](#).

The RCSLT welcomes the focus on defined quality through safety, effectiveness and experience. As allied health professionals, we know that delivering high-quality care means achieving outcomes that matter to people, while ensuring care is safe, responsive and centred around their needs.

Every day we see how these three areas are connected. For Speech and Language Therapists, communication and swallowing are fundamental to safe care, patient experience and participation. Supporting people to understand information, communicate their needs, make informed choices and have their voices heard is central to person-centred care across the lifespan, from babies, children and young people, through to working-age adults and older people.

It will be important that future quality measures and improvement frameworks capture what matters to people, reflecting not only clinical outcomes, but also people's ability to communicate, participate, make choices and live well. Reducing inequalities also means ensuring all children develop the language and communication skills they need to thrive, and people with communication and swallowing needs can access, understand and participate in their care.

As the strategy moves into implementation through pathways, modern service frameworks and improvement programmes, recognising the contribution of every profession involved in delivering care, including Allied Health Professionals will be essential to achieving sustained quality improvement and truly person-centred care.