



RCSLT response to the Cardiovascular Disease MSF

9 July 2026

On 7 July, the Government published the [Cardiovascular Disease Modern Service Framework in England](#), which places prevention, rehabilitation and multidisciplinary care at the heart of improving cardiovascular outcomes, making it highly relevant to allied health professionals (AHPs) and speech and language therapists (SLTs).

It represents an important shift from reactive, hospital-based care towards a proactive, multidisciplinary model delivered closer to where people live, in communities, neighbourhood teams and integrated services.

The framework recognises the need for a modern workforce capable of delivering personalised, preventative and digitally enabled care. AHPs and SLTs have a vital role in making this ambition a reality, supporting people to regain, maintain or optimise function, participate in daily life and achieve their personal goals.

The MSF also highlights the importance of improving access to stroke services, both in acute care and in the community, including the expansion of the Integrated Community Stroke Service model to support longer term therapy and rehabilitation.

The Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists has long advocated for Integrated Community Stroke Services that provide equitable, long-term support for stroke survivors, addressing communication and swallowing needs that are essential to recovery, participation and quality of life.

We are pleased that the MSF includes measures to encourage focused action to reduce variation, and we hope this will include variation in accessing speech and language therapy in integrated community stroke care.

As implementation guidance is developed for Integrated Care Boards later this year, it will be essential to ensure speech and language therapists are fully embedded in the delivery of these ambitions across community services. Achieving the goals of the

framework will depend on investing in the multidisciplinary workforce and ensuring equitable access to rehabilitation, communication and swallowing support.

A successful CVD strategy will rely not only on preventing disease but also on enabling that speech and language therapists to help people living with the consequences of stroke and other cardiovascular conditions regain function, maximise independence and live well.

References

- <https://www.rcslt.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Stroke-and-speech-and-language-therapy-briefing-Jan-2026.pdf>
- <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/national-service-model-for-an-integrated-community-stroke-service/>