



The Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists is its members.

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

RCSLT Wales highlights

June 2025/26

To get involved in our work:

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

- Read our bi-monthly Wales policy e-newsletter.
- Call or email us –
walesoffice@rcslt.org
029 2002 5585

80th anniversary event in North Wales



2025 marked RCSLT's 80th anniversary. Members celebrated this significant milestone together in North Wales in November.

It was wonderful to see so many members and stakeholders in attendance at the event. Speaking at the event were service users Steve, alongside his partner Janice, and Josh, with his father Pete. Steve spoke about his experiences of aphasia following a stroke, whilst Josh spoke about communication difficulties due to brain injury following a road traffic accident.



Steve and his partner, Janice.



Joe and his father, Pete.

Impact

We spoke to local leaders in the NHS and charity partners about the importance of speech and language therapy work.

State of the Nation Report 2026



On 18 May, we launched the RCSLT Wales State of the Nation Report 2026. The report was also shared with newly elected and returning Members of the Senedd (MSs) at the Senedd on the 20 May.

Thank you to all our members who contributed to and engaged with the report. The report provides detailed insight into demand for speech and language therapy services in Wales, alongside analysis of the current and future workforce, including the ongoing challenge of retention within the profession.

Impact

- The report generated 30 pieces of TV, radio and online coverage in both English and Welsh on launch day.
- This strong media profile helped raise awareness among MSs of the key challenges facing the profession ahead of our Senedd engagement event.
- The report will play an important role in influencing and engaging the newly elected government on the future of speech and language therapy services in Wales.



AHPF Cymru



We have worked collaboratively and strategically with the Allied Health Professions Federation Cymru (AHPF Cymru) to support and advance the interests of our members.

We worked with AHPF Cymru to produce a key asks document to influence manifestos ahead of the Senedd elections in May 2026. We hosted stands at all the main party-political conferences to raise the profile of AHPs with candidates and met with manifesto writers in the six main political parties. We worked with AHPF Cymru to campaign for the advertisement of the Chief Allied Health Professional Officer post, including leading on an open letter signed by 300 AHPs.

Impact

- Out of the six main political parties, three, including Plaid Cymru, contained specific commitments relating to the allied health professions (AHPs) within their manifestos. We will now work proactively to influence future policy development and ensure the priorities of the AHP workforce and SLT profession are reflected in government plans and decision-making.
- The Chief Allied Health Professional Officer post was advertised, and we were part of the interview process.

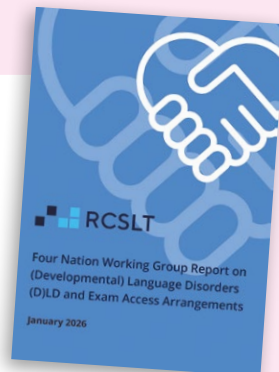
Developmental Language Disorder (DLD)



The RCSLT Four Nation Working Group on DLD and Exam Access Arrangements brought together clinical, educational, research, and policy experts. The group focused on reforming UK exam systems to make them accessible for students with language difficulties.

Impact

- Early in 2026, the group published a landmark UK-wide report titled the RCSLT Four Nation Report on Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) and Exam Access Arrangements. The report demands urgent reform in how exam access arrangements are assigned.
- The working group's major impact on educational equity earned them a nomination for a National Diversity Award in May 2026.
- We will continue to collaborate with the Welsh Joint Education Committee, the primary and largest awarding examination body in Wales.



Children & young people



Talk with Me. We have continued our discussions about Talk with Me, Welsh Government's national drive to promote speech, language and communication development, with a focus on prevention in the early years.

Impact

Our discussions directly influenced the consultation on the next stages of Talk with Me, extending the current work, driving improvement to reach more children in Wales.

Additional Learning Needs. We responded to the consultation by the Children, Young People and Education Committee on ALN.

Impact

The Legacy report by the Committee concludes that a successor committee may wish to examine outcomes of ALN and whether this is improving outcomes for children.

Youth justice. Met with former Cabinet Secretary and Head of Devolution of Youth Justice in Welsh Government.

Impact

A commitment to write best practice guidance including standards regarding Speech and Language Therapy was given.