

Bercow: Ten Years On

**All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG)
on Speech and Language Difficulties**

Wednesday 24 January 2018

2008: The Bercow Report

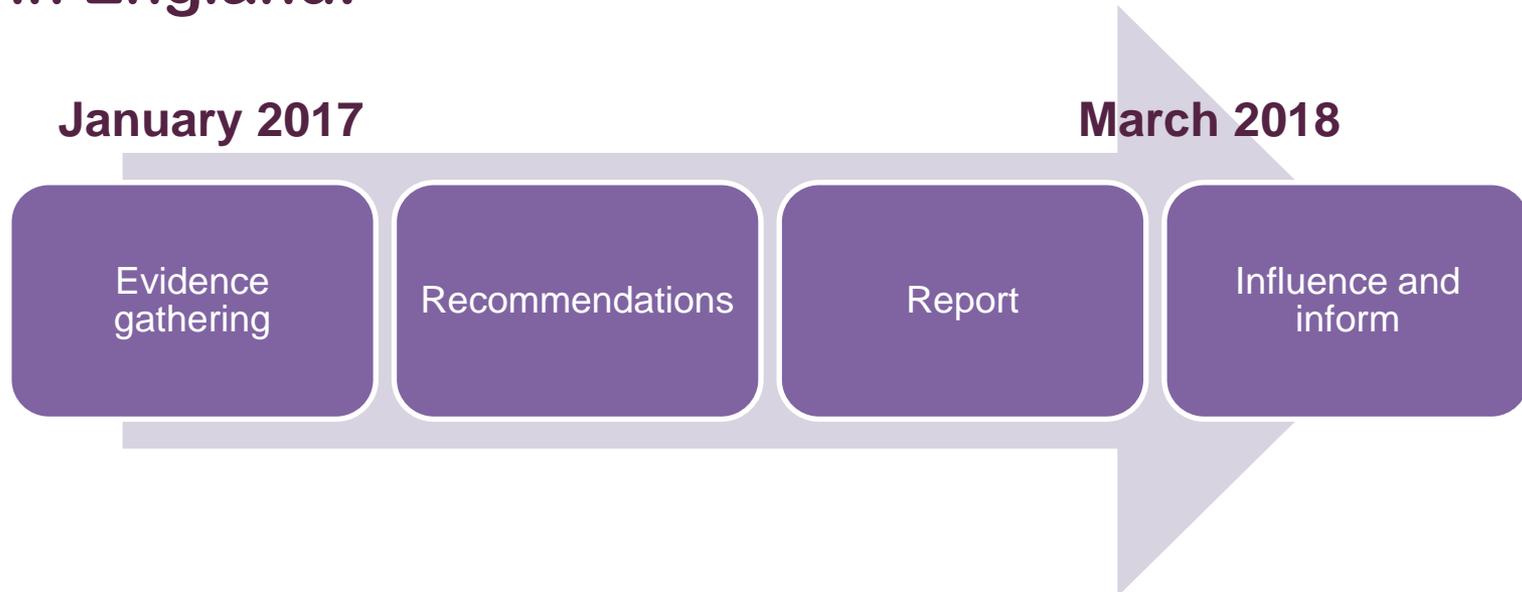


The Bercow Report

A Review of Services for Children and
Young People (0-19) with Speech,
Language and Communication Needs

2018: Bercow: Ten Years On

A review of the state of provision for children's speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) in England.



The evidence and what it tells us

Evidence

Through a combination of surveys, focus groups, oral and written evidence, we heard the views of:

- Children and young people
- Parents and carers
- Practitioners
- Employers
- Commissioners

Good news

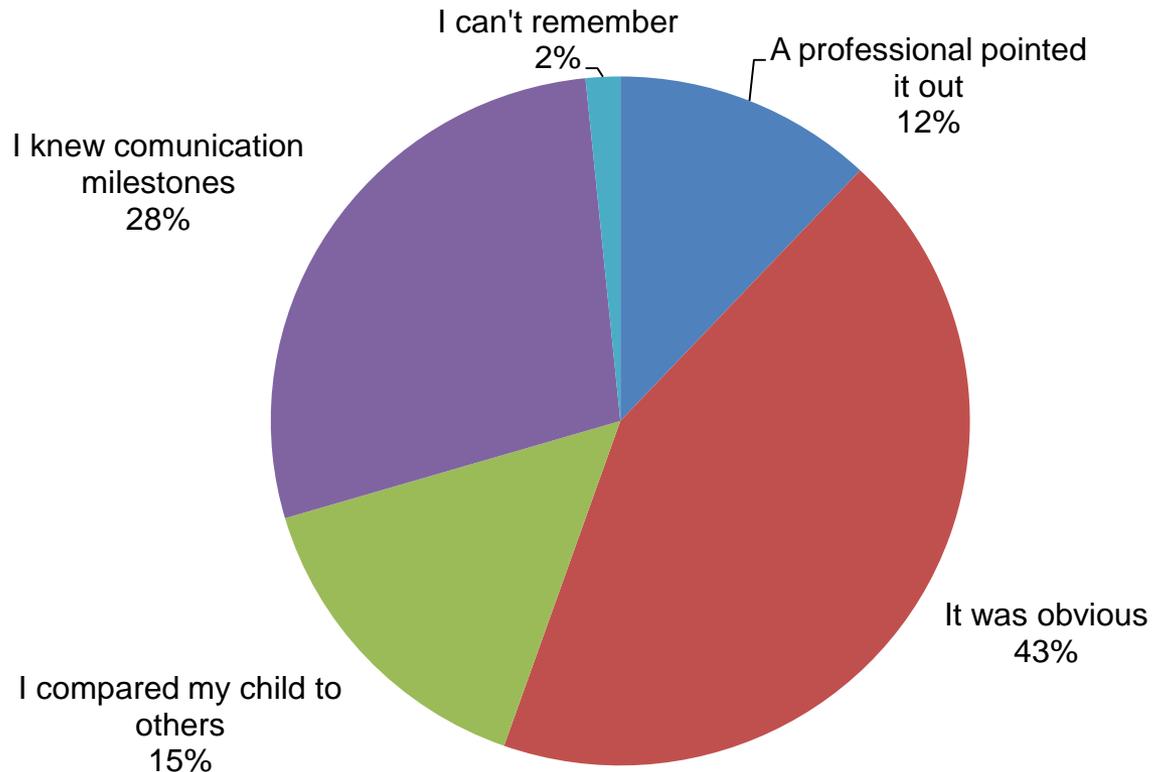
- Expertise in schools and early years staff
- Youth justice
- Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)
- Local good practice
 - No Wrong Door
 - Greater Manchester Early Years Pathway
 - Peterborough and Cambridgeshire Joint Commissioning Unit

Children and young people

| Like | Don't like |
|---|--|
| <p>Be good at explaining</p> <p>Encourage us</p> <p>Make it easy to ask questions</p> <p>Make things fun</p> <p>Be patient</p> <p>Pictures/visual support</p> <p>Check I understand</p> <p>Give choices</p> <p>Give time to talk</p> <p>Don't speak too fast</p> <p>Give help with work</p> | <p>Too much teacher talk</p> <p>Teachers shouting</p> <p>People talking too much / being noisy</p> <p>Working in silence</p> <p>Lots of writing</p> <p>Spending time on naughty children</p> |

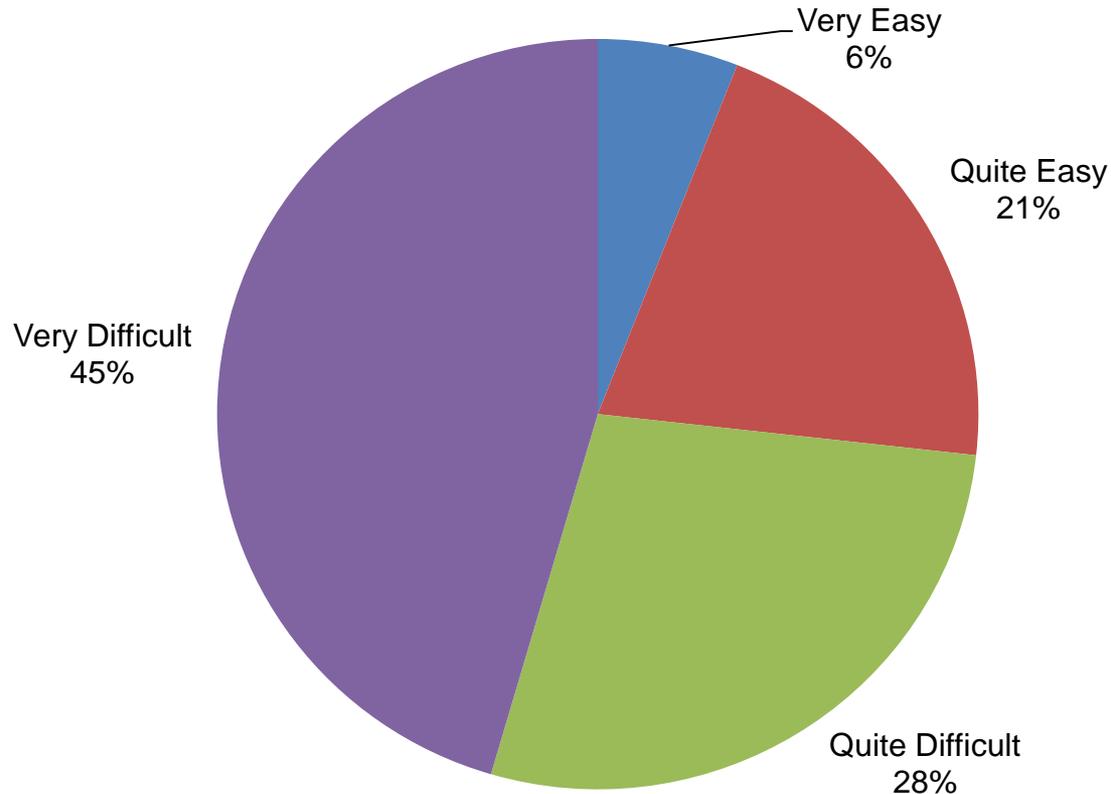
Views from parents and carers

How did you know your child was struggling?



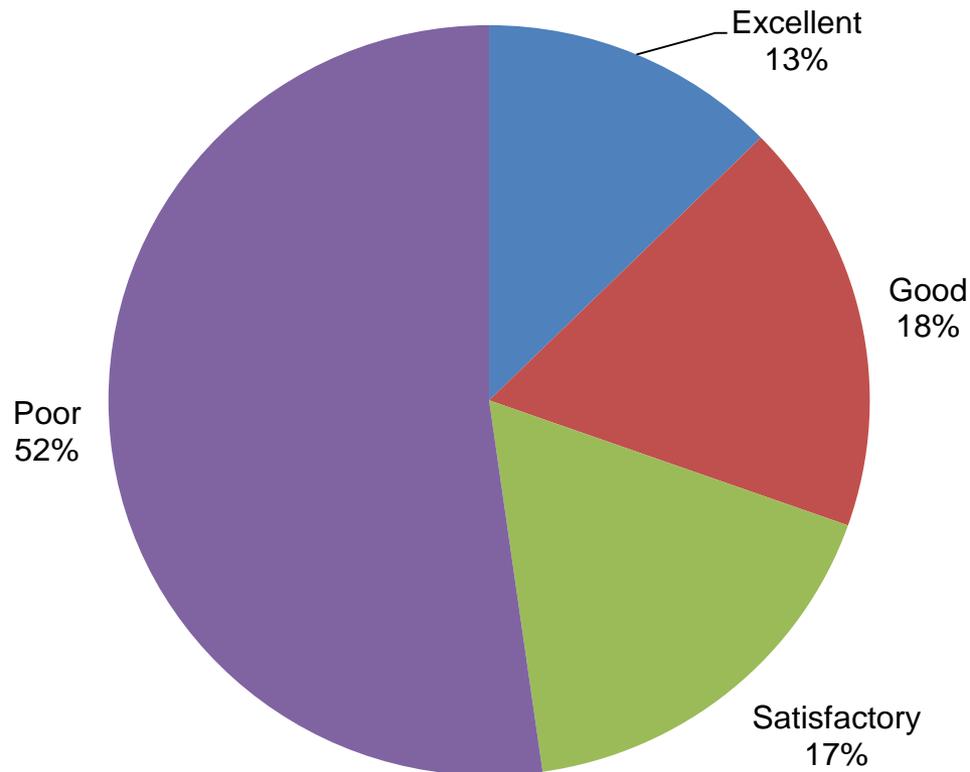
Views from parents and carers

How easy was it to get help for your child with their SLCN?



Views from parents and carers

Overall, my family's experience of speech, language and communication support is that it is:



Views from parents and carers

“Her downward spiral into the friendless, socially isolated, dependent 17-year-old we have today has been heart-breaking to see.... What has been difficult? **Not having Rebecca’s needs identified in primary school.**”

Parent, oral evidence session on low incidence, high need conditions

Evidence: themes

School support

Early
identification
and intervention

Commissioning

Wider workforce

Speech and
language
therapy
workforce

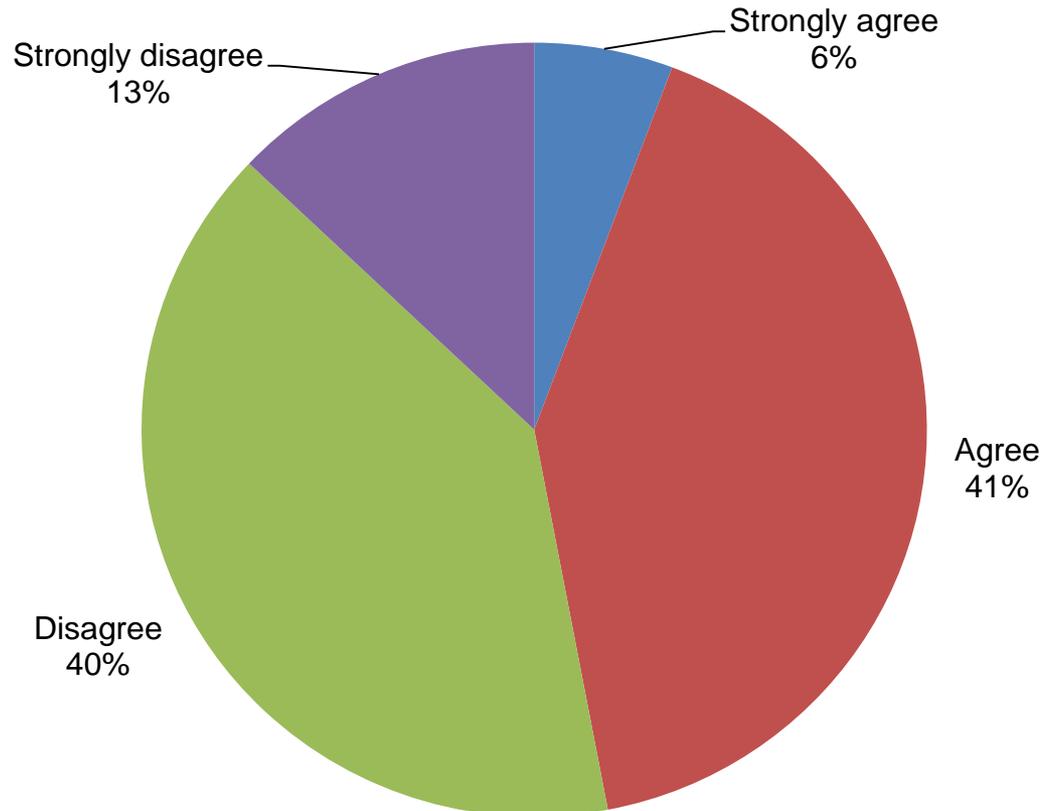
Evidence base
and data

Service models

Raising
awareness

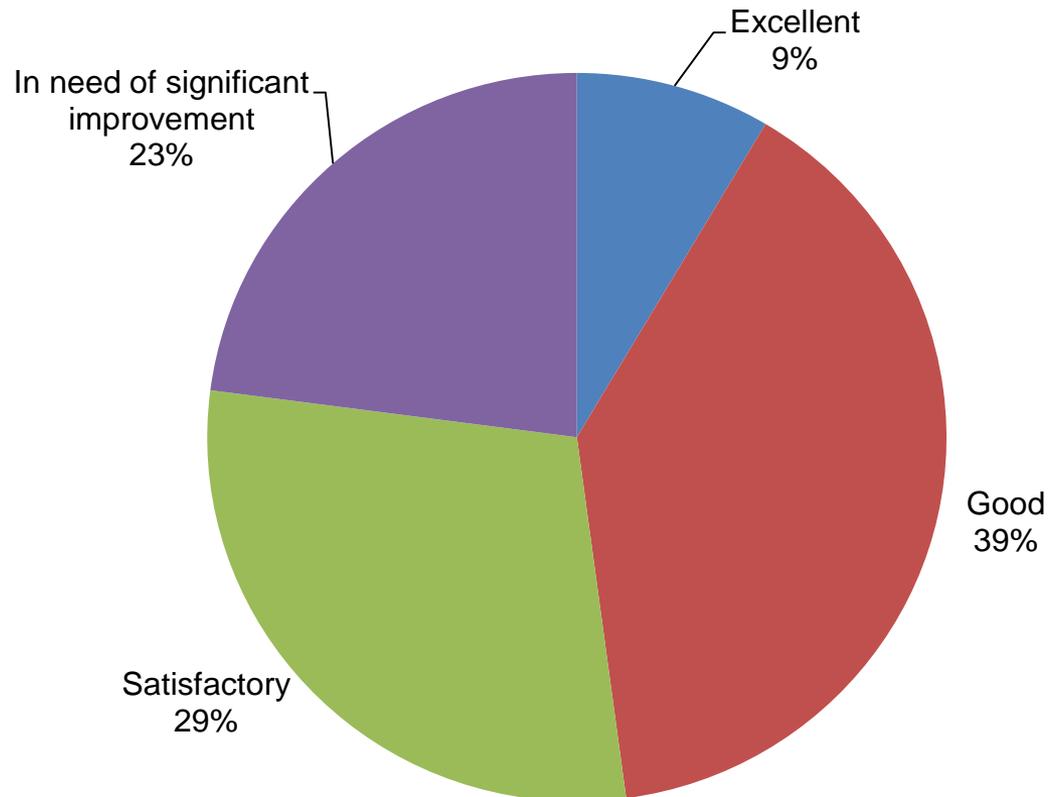
School support

The way children and young people learn in schools these days supports their speech, language and communication development:



Identification

In my local area, the expertise of school and early years staff to identify and support children and young people's speech, language and communication is:



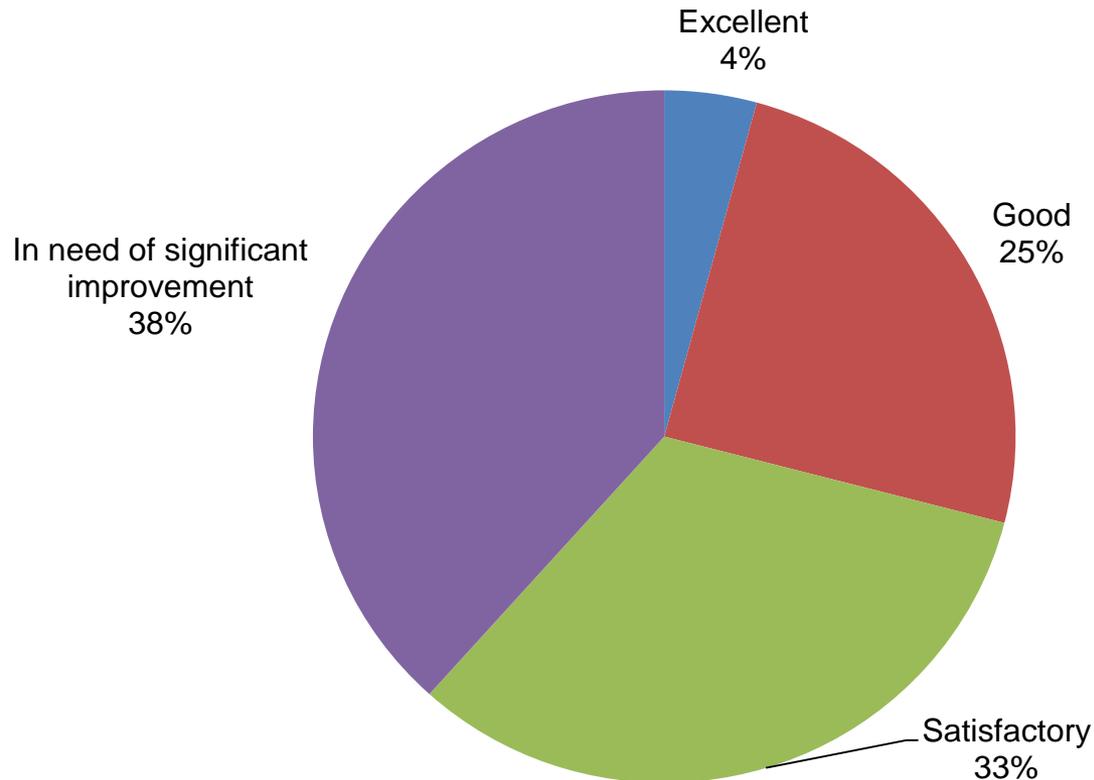
Identification

“I think there’s a **really serious issue around teacher training** because they get very little input on language and they’re having to deal with teenagers who are very difficult to communicate with... I think it’s a real area where teachers need more help, they need more skills.”

Professor Karen Bryan OBE, oral evidence session on the impact of unsupported SLCN

Commissioning

In my local area, commissioners' understanding about the importance of speech, language and communication is:



Commissioning

“Joint commissioning is challenging but still offers us **our best chance of a robust system of change** in this area and even though we have been at it for a long time now with some success, but we’re not by any means there altogether.”

Marie Gascoigne, oral evidence session on joint commissioning

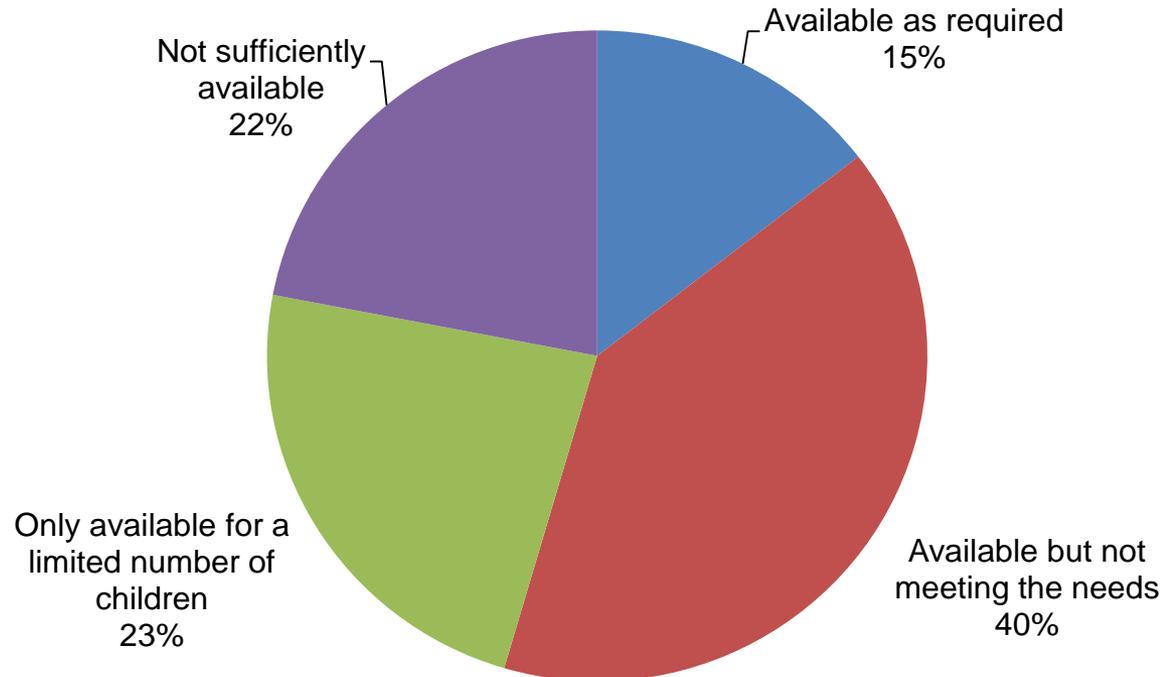
Workforce

“We still find that midwives, health visitors, teaching staff, apprentices have virtually nothing on child development [in their initial training] and **absolutely nothing on language and communication skills.**”

“A worrying descent to a lower denominator has seen **the reduction in senior posts** and so specialist knowledge of speech, language and communication needs has gone both in education and speech and language therapy services”

Access to support

Speech and language therapy for children and young people in my area is:





Recommendations

Recommendations will address the following areas:

- **Centrality of spoken language to life chances**
- **Children are still being missed**
- **An accessible and equitable service**
- **Effective support**
- **Integrated systemic change**

Next steps

- **Finalising report and recommendations for government and decision makers**
- **Developing:**
 - **Calls to action: bold first steps for everyone**
 - **Resources and collateral: getting the message out**
- **Breakfast launch at Speaker's House on 20 March**

The Bercow: Ten Years On review needs you

To help inform the final report,
we would welcome your:

- feedback on findings
 - Is there anything you think is missing?
- advice on recommendations
 - What recommendations would you like to see in the report?
- advice on promotion



Thank you