

The NHS England Long Term Plan: what it means for speech & language therapy

Chapter 2: More NHS action on prevention and health inequalities

Headlines – relevant sections for speech and language therapy	Page / para	Implication – what does this mean for speech and language therapy?
<p>Chapter 2: More NHS action on prevention and health inequalities</p> <p>To address increasing demand, the Long Term Plan sets out new commitment for action that the NHS will take to improve prevention.</p>		
<p>Potential changes to commissioning of health visiting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government and the NHS will consider whether there is a stronger role for the NHS in commissioning health visitors, and what best future commissioning arrangements might therefore be. 	<p>Pg 33, para 2.4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay alert to any changes to commissioning of health visiting which could impact on commissioning of speech and language therapy
<p>A more concerted and systematic approach to reducing health inequalities and addressing unwarranted variation in care</p>		
<p>Continued higher share of funding towards areas with high health inequalities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NHS England will introduce more accurate assessment of need for community health and mental health services NHS England will commission the Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation to conduct and publish a review of the inequalities adjustment to the funding formulae. 	<p>Pg. 40, para 2.25</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunity for speech and language therapists in areas with high health inequalities to make contact with their commissioners to make the case for increased funding of speech and language therapy – highlighting evidence showing the link between speech, language and communication and health inequalities – for example in <i>Bercow: Ten Years On</i>.
<p>Specific measurable goals for narrowing inequalities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All local health systems will be expected to set out during 2019 how they will specifically reduce health inequalities by 2023/24 and 2028/29. NHS England, working with Public Health England and other partners, will publish a ‘menu’ of evidence-based 	<p>Pg. 40, para 2.26</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunity for speech and language therapists to contact those responsible for developing plans locally to set out the role that speech and language therapy can play, for example by sharing evidence on the role of SLTs in supporting early language development.

<p>interventions that if adopted locally would contribute to this goal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expectation that CCGs will ensure all screening programmes are designed to support a narrowing of health inequalities 		
<p>The NHS will continue to commission, partner with and champion local charities, social enterprises and community interest companies providing services and support to vulnerable and at-risk groups</p>	<p>Pg. 43, para 2.37</p>	<p>Continued opportunities for speech and language therapists working in charities and social enterprises.</p>

RESOURCES

- The NHS Long Term Plan is accessible via: <https://www.longtermplan.nhs.uk/>
- The RCSLT analysis of the plan (Feb 2019) is accessible via: <https://bit.ly/2RTUoGr>
- The RCSLT response to the plan (Jan 2019) is accessible via: <https://bit.ly/2DKI7AI>
- The RCSLT consultation response (Sept 2018) is accessible via: <https://bit.ly/2C4dcgm>

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