



Raising the profile of a service: Salford Royal Speech and Language Therapists

Salford Royal's Speech and Language Therapists wanted to promote the role of speech and language therapy.

Therefore, they decided to invite their local MP, Rebecca Long-Bailey, to listen to their and their patients' stories. They saw this as an opportunity to try to show the efficacy of Speech and Language Therapy input and hopefully recruit an advocate for the service who could potentially raise their profile at parliamentary level. At the same time, they have been trying to get support for the community SLT service to be reviewed so they also invited the Service Improvement Lead from the local Clinical Commissioning Group and the Trust's Divisional Director of Nursing to the meeting to further raise awareness of their acute SLT service.

The feedback received following the session was that it was a privilege to learn more about speech and language therapy. Mrs Long-Bailey was very moved by the patient's stories, and she agreed to use her experience in Parliament as opportunities arose. The service has continued to use Twitter to address her and remind her of her visit.

The meeting was an excellent way of raising the profession's profile to an audience who generally have little understanding of speech and language therapy and who can advocate its benefit at a much higher level. This meeting took place at a time when there was a media outcry for more nurses and doctors and the service took the opportunity to highlight that patient care cannot be delivered without our profession too.

The presentation the service gave can be accessed [here](#).

Salford Royal Speech and Language Therapists



Salford SLTs give voice to local MP

Speech and language therapists from Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust were busy Giving Voice on 26 February during a visit by MP for Salford and Eccles, Rebecca Long-Bailey.

The event involved a presentation from three of our SLTs and service users told their stories. Speech bubbles were also on display with written feedback from previous patients about how speech therapy had helped them. We maximised the opportunity and invited the service improvement lead from the clinical commissioning group and the divisional director of nursing to further raise awareness of the service.

All reported having learned a great deal about speech and language therapy, and the impact it can have

on people's lives. Rebecca reported feeling privileged to have learnt more about speech and language therapy, and promised to use her experience in Parliament when opportunities arise.

When initially thinking about Giving Voice we were unsure if we had enough time to dedicate to planning such an event. However, with increasing demands for the service, we realised there would never actually be 'a good time' and this was the actual reason we needed to do something for 'Giving Voice'.

We recommend every service celebrates what they do and utilises opportunities to raise the profile of their profession.

Laura O'Shea, Naomi Sirkett and Nikki Clark, SLTs



Rebecca Long-Bailey (second from left) feels privileged to have learnt more about speech and language therapy