

Mandate for Change: Children's Services Strategy

As part of the RCSLT's aims to support members to deliver high quality services the Board of Trustees have approved the development of a UK-wide Children's Services Strategy, to be co-produced with the profession, parents, carers, children and young people.

This is a time of great change which creates risks but also opportunities for improving outcomes for children and young people with SLCN and eating, drinking and swallowing difficulties.

The RCSLT wants to work with the profession and our key stakeholders to:

1. Develop a shared understanding of good practice, particularly meeting the needs of children, young people, their parents and carers within different service models.
2. Support SLTs in delivering evidence-based care focused on outcomes which meet service users' needs.
3. Provide members with the tools and evidence to influence and inform service provision and service redesign.
4. Develop resources to assist key decision makers such as commissioners to understand the role of speech and language therapy in children's health, wellbeing and participation to improve educational outcomes and life chances.

Your involvement is essential

Engagement – the importance of working together

The result of this process needs to be a user-friendly resource based upon the realities faced by SLT professionals – it can't be just a report that sits on a shelf. So to get this right, we want to develop this resource in partnership with our members and other relevant stakeholders to ensure the outcome of this process is built directly upon their views and experiences.

Starting in September 2016, we will hold a number of online conversations. The first of these will be to help build consensus on the key outcomes for children and young people that speech and language therapy should be supporting, within the context of national outcome frameworks and legislation across the UK.

We are also going to be exploring ways to enable children, young people, parents, carers, past service users, commissioners and other interested stakeholders to take part in this process and co-produce these resources with us in meaningful ways.

So we are asking you to help us spread the word, get involved in the conversation and ensure that the strategy and resources we develop meet your needs and are fit for the real world.